OBSERVATIONS

ON A

TOUR

THROUGH ALMOST THE WHOLE OF ENGLAND, AND A CONSIDERABLE PART OF SCOTLAND,

IN A SERIES OF LETTERS,

Addressed to a large number of intelligent and respectable Friends,

BY

MR. DIBDIN.

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LETTER XLVI.

RETIREMENT.

WILLIAM WOODFALL, Esq.

MY DEAR SIR.

EVERY truly wise and great character will occasionally seek retirement, as a man, as a philosopher, as a politician, and as a christian. As a man, because nature loves tranquillity; as a politician, to enhance the value of his absence; as a philosopher, to assist his knowledge by contemplation; and as a christian, to examine his conscience and regulate his principles.

This is a portrait of retirement personated by nature and drawn by reason; and it is here, considering it figuratively, exactly what has been emphatically termed the human face divine, to which I shall continue to compare it by way of proving that custom has spoiled retirement as foppery spoils faces. Nothing can be so inconceivable as that variety of fashions by which we distort nature into every possible shape but its own; nay, it is not our faults that we do not exhaust possibility; for, as if it were not enough to torture our features, flexible or inflexible, so as to represent feelings to which the heart is a stranger, we ransack invention to trick out the head in extraneous trappings, which can have no merit but in proportion as they are, not only singular and ridiculous, but uncomfortable and inconvenient.

Nothing is so easy as to lay open the whole system of that vapid and senseless grimace which, though the lowest thing in nature, is superlative in fashion; for it is only a mixture of insensibility and arrogance. The business is to be as unlike as possible what they call vulgar, but which common-sense calls natural. Let us compare a BRUTUS and a NUDE, for beau and belle are terms neither natty nor crackish enough for the fashionables of the present day, with two simple country lovers. The features of the latter glowing with health, their minds full of ingenuousness, their hearts throbbing with conscious pleasure, and their tongues incapable of dissimulation. The features of the first either lengthened by a listless vacancy, or distorted by a hysteric giggle; their minds, under a film of unmeaning politeness, full of doubt and distrust, their hearts fluctuating between solicitude and insincerity, and their tongues in the language of flattery playing off the arts of deception.

Every one of these remarks have reference to the perversion of manners in retirement. If in any situation an excuse may be at all admitted for the assumption of self-created superiority, in this of all others it ought to be thrown off. Unfortunately, however, airs and affectation are ten times more assumed in the country than in town, and the reason is evident. In town there is not the same opportunity of being conspicuous; one part of the million don't know, and the other don't care about the matter; and, though a number of splendid equipages may excite general attention in HYDE-PARK, the respective owners are never known except to their own circles and the tradesmen with whom they have ticked for their finery, not even with the addition of those puffs by which they are ranged in the same columns of the news-papers with actresses, lottery-office keepers, money-lenders, and quack-doctors.

Let us look at the difference between the same ensign of a marching regiment sneaking through the streets of London and parading in the market place of a country town. By the way, to the military gentleman, at least of that description who emancipate from obscurity to obtain a fortune by a feather and a cockade, we owe in general the regulation of that distinction in society out of London of which I am about to complain. The moment the officers arrive, they are put

upon fashion's staff. Order and discipline is instantly the word, whole corps of follies' light troops dress to the right and left, the volunteers of ceremony and etiquette march and halt at the word of command; husbands are dragooned out of their wives; invaded families first capitulate and at length surrender at discretion; manners are in a state of siege, and fashion is laid under martial law.

I shall hardly be suspected of the slightest inclination to overleap that proper and honourable barrier which it has been the sworn purpose and indefatigable business of the disaffected to break down. Subordination is the cement of society; and he who would pervert its operation or sophisticate its intention is the enemy and ought to be the out cast of his country. In all we have known and read of good old English hospitality, its complacency was noble, and its condescension dignified; and, though mirth was permitted to excess, it never approached to disrespect, much less to familiarity. The superior stooped to be elevated, and the inferior approached to retire with admiration, and thus the benefits were equally enjoyed by the giver and the receiver; the compact was mutual: The Lord considering the peasantry as his children, and the peasant teaching his children to lisp the name of their benefactor.

My complaint is that in the country, where one should naturally think universal communication and intelligence must be particularly desirable, there is so much difficulty in settling place and precedency, that, so far from enjoying the comforts of society, every thing sociable is precluded. Satisfaction waits upon ceremony and pleasure is filtered through the medium of rules and orders. The community is divided into classes; those who drive four horses must not know those who drive only a pair; a chariot must not condescend to visit a gig or a whisky; Persons of birth and fortune though ever so poor are above professional men though ever so rich; Professional men to keep up the comedy, look down upon tradesmen; who, to make the entertainment complete by adding a farce, split again into parties and sour the relish of their proper enjoyments by rancour and animosity; and thus, by pulling different ways, they become what the wheels of a machine would be that, instead of revolving in appropriate directions and by general consent, would not only run counter to the order in which alone they

would have any useful operation, but be sure to fret and tear each other to pieces; or like a constitution that rationally treated might have been sound and hale; but, having been quacked, and tampered with, would become distorted and tortured by a complication of disorders.

Some author describes the conduct of four persons who went together to the LAND'S END in a Stage coach. The first twenty miles they all spoke together; further on they were the best friends in the world, but were content with speaking one at a time; by and by they all yawned; afterwards fell asleep and before they parted, heartily wished one another at the devil. Now all this was natural enough, these people were never to meet again; but the first idea of settling in the country is a sociable neighbourhood; and, as those who are so situated must necessarily be near each other during a number of dull months, common policy would induce them one should think to give and receive as much rational pleasure as possible. But pride attends every situation in life. Mrs. DOUDLETRIPE the cook looks with contempt on the scullion; Mrs. HANDY, my lady's maid, addresses Mrs. DOUBLETRIPE by the title of good woman; Mrs. CRINGE the toad eater, sneers superciliously at Mrs. HANDY; while she in her turn is huffed and dinged about by my lady and blamed for putting her out of humour, spoiling her complexion, and losing her lovers. A corporal is as proud of relieving a centinel as a general of commanding an army, and a strolling actor is as much a monarch for the time being as the emperor of GERMANY.

In more than one place that I have visited has this ridiculous pride thrown all degrees of the inhabitants into a ferment. I shall only give one instance though it may serve to establish this fact in more than fifty instances. At the place I allude to, the ladies of independent fortune had instituted an assembly. This of course gave umbrage to the major part of the place who were therefore determined to form an assembly apart. Here for a short time the matter rested, and it must have been pleasant enough to see the lower house muster numerously while the upper house could get nobody to attend it. At length this second assembly began to divide. Miss. LATITAT the attornies daughter made Mrs. FRIZ the barber's wife no return to her curtsey; while Mrs. PHTHISIC, the physician's lady,

sneered at the upstart consequence of Miss. BUMPER, the inn keeper's daughter, and wondered that she should have the impudence to prescribe rules of good breeding to her.

A second division was the consequence and a third party formed, which out of derision was stigmatized with the title of the checked apron assembly. This caprice destroyed every expectation of enjoyment among them. These meetings were ill attended and produced nothing but envy, bickering, and discord, and, were a sample of rational manners to have been taken from their conduct it would give an idea that human beings were created to regard their own peace of mind only in proportion as they could undermine and destroy that of others. This kind of contemptible absurdity had obtained to such a ridiculous degree in one town that the persons of distinction had the grace to see their own folly. It was however at the instance of a lady, then a countess, but since a dutchess, who with a complacency and condescension truly noble headed the assembly and dispensed her favours with so equal a hand that nothing was universally felt but an emulation not to assume false consequence, but to imitate true greatness.

There is one most intolerable folly which operates, to the destruction of real comfort in the country, and this is an idea that men of superior abilities are only born for the mere accommodation of those who are ridiculously considered as their superiors, as if birth and hereditary fortune were not infinitely beneath talents and genius ; but this will infallibly be the case as long as true merit shall be allied to modesty and ignoranee to arrogance. See with what coldness and contempt the inferior orders of the clergy are treated by those on whom it is incumbent to glow with gratitude and respect for the advantage they have received from such lessons of instruction as are not only the best clue to the discharge of their own duty but the safeguard and insurance of the duty of their dependants. A gentleman's butler is permitted to consider himself superior to a country curate, who, poor man, may at his own election undergo every distressing humiliation or starve with his family.

As to poets, painters and others, they may by way of courtesy get an invitation to a second table and be called in occasionally to amuse the company, like a

fidler at a country dance; but as to cherishing, feeling or acknowledging a distinction of abilities above their own it would be considered as the height of impertinence were any one to suggest that any such fact exists. I like SWIFT for nothing so much as considering it the most ineffable debasement in men of fortune and wordly distinction to fancy for a single moment that rank is not dignified by a communication with those whose merit can adorn any situation, but to which the most exalted state can never give creation. A person being asked why men of genius are oftener seen at the doors of the rich than the rich at the doors of men of genius, aptly answered, that it was because men of genius always feel the necessity of riches, but that the rich seldom feel the value of genius.

I agree that it is not possible, nor indeed would it be proper, in any way for the high and low to meet familiarly in private. Fortune has set up a barrier which naturally precludes any such communication but this is no reason why the lower classes should be considered as brutes, wretches, and the canaille, and it is particularly unjust when those epithets are applied, as I know they sometimes have been only an hour after some mean and paltry excuse has been made for not discharging debts with which tradesmens books are loaded to the great detriment of their circumstances. Nothing in the world is more common than for a tradesman to put off a LONDON correspondent by assuring him that he has no money in his bureau and the reason is that he dare not, for fear of being turned off, ask the Colonel, the Baronet, her Ladyship, or any others of his customers, for the smallest sum though many of them have had large debts upon his books for perhaps a twelvemonth. How does this disappointment operate? The tradesman is obliged to give a large order, in which the traveller takes care to introduce such unsaleable goods as he cannot palm off upon his more punctual customers; and, being in this manner obliged to subscribe to those terms, the shopkeeper in self defence lays on an extra profit, and thus people of fashion submit to an imposition for which they have only to thank themselves.

With all their consequence and *hauteur*, however, the great can truckle and cringe willingly enough when they have any point to carry. At a general election for example. Then dukes, lords, and tinkers are hey fellow well met.

Then the tallow-chandler's wife is the countess's most kind and intimate friend. Then all is junketting and regaling. Hand-bills and advertisements are circulated about, that for flattery and meanness might shame the inventor of a nostrum. The hall and the saloon are thrown open, the lord of the manor walks a minuet with a taylor's daughter, and the lady of the mansion goes down a country dance with the cheese-monger.

I have somewhere remarked that pride and interest are the source of all the differences between man and man. Eradicate these from the heart and the result would be peace and tranquillity, then in his fellow-creature man would no longer see a rival, he would see a man. He would see himself. The rich possessed with this honorable feeling would rejoice in those treasures they are blessed with, in proportion as they gave them ability to relieve such as were in necessity, while the poor would repay their benefactors with a gratitude infinitely beyond the grasp of riches; and, thus, in the mutual struggle, the giver and the receiver would be equally objects of the same admiration.

A conduct so perfect as this exercise of the mind would enforce, might, however, here, literally speaking, be impracticable. The essence of it might nevertheless be kept in sight; and, instead of the inward contempt of the lower orders of society, masked by their adulation towards the great, and the folly and ignorance of the great, scarcely concealed by their arrogance, towards the lower orders of society, if they were to meet half-way, and, under a consideration that this class cannot exist without a proportion of the riches of that, and that that would be deprived of all comfort without the ingenuity and enterprize of this, it would be fairly putting this and that together, and amicably settling a difference, since give and take is the only cement of society, which could not in nature otherwise operate but to the confusion of both.

To put the thing at once upon a footing, let us examine the degrees of those who compose the inhabitants of a country town, or to state the matter better, a city without any manufacture. In the vicinity there are always families of large fortunes, and of these I shall only say, that the more they depart from the wide

hospitable liberality of their ancestors, the less it will be to their honour. Persons of fashion may whenever they please cancel the errors and follies of those who are their very humble imitators by shewing them, one instance of which we have already seen, that irreproachable condescension is a certain mark of true greatness, and thus all the chicanery in the laws of fashion might be reduced to one equitable standard, especially if any thing could induce their imitators to ape their virtues instead of their follies.

But, placing the possibility of this regulation out of the question, as an object of general adoption, let us see what the operation would be did persons of distinction keep entirely in their own sphere and apart from inferior society. The experiment would shew us, probably, that all the enjoyments which imply rational happiness are to be found without their interference; and that if once the object of envy should disappear contention would vanish with it. Thus, instead of considering those beneath them as objects of pity and contempt; they would themselves become obnoxious to as much of the application of those sensations as they are so willing to apply to others, in which case one should suppose there would be an end of all their fancied consequence; for, though their inferiors would be banished from them, they in return, and I suppose there could not be a more mortifying condition would be condemned to live among one another.

Thus we have disposed of persons of high rank, who certainly have it in their power either to eclipse themselves from their inferiors, but who by the by will thus be eclipsed from them, or to give and receive mutual comfort and illumination. The lower orders, much to their credit and content, have nothing to do with the controversity. It all therefore lies at present between the second and third classes. The second are those who fancy themselves persons of rank without means, and who fondly imagine that birth and idleness are a compensation for want of fortune. I could name fifty towns, perhaps a hundred, where this disease is confluent. Where that part of the inhabitants which are of this description are upon the stretch of invention to make imaginary consequence conceal real poverty.

These in general are composed of the descendants of younger brothers of great families, who have been destined to the church and the army, and whose incomes, such as they are, arise out of half-pay, pensions, and various remunerations, which by agents and other representatives, have been sifted as impalpably as possible. These people walk in and out of assembly-rooms and coffee-houses, to have the credit of belonging to societies, to which their narrow circumstances will scarcely permit them to subscribe. They starve themselves to appear fine, and pretend to regard those tradesmen with pity at the contemplation of whose comforts they are bursting with envy, and all this at the very moment that they are deeply in their books, as the only possible source from which they are enabled to draw their very subsistence till the quarter comes round. Can any thing be more pitiably ridiculous? Poverty, unless the offspring of infamy, is no stain. If it be true that their mental acquirements are of such value, let them be fairly pitted against he worldly acquirements of their neighbours, and let the contention be no longer between pride and property, but between kindness and good fellowship.

Besides, this fancied distinction and assumed distance between gentlemen and tradesmen is impolitic, and might now and then be an uncomfortable thing; for, as the magistrates of the town are always chosen out of the latter description, who are therefore placed in superior situations as to authority, a row, as it is politely called, may now and then bring one of the high-flyers rather ignominiously before a man whom he has been accustomed to consider as a scum, a low fellow, and the rincing of a bottle; and how mortifying to make concessions, or receive punishment at the command of one whom his own conscience must upbraid him with having unjustly despised.

As to the ladies, if we had been blessed with a salique law in ENGLAND, I think the matter might have been put upon a proper footing. Indeed, as it is, many of the assembly-rooms are governed by queens, whose power is, as it ought to be, absolute and despotic; on which I could easily descant, and thereby prove without any great stretch of argument, that were the matter left entirely to them every thing would go as it ought, for nothing can be more easy to see, by the regularity with which they conduct the tea-table, and the card-table, that

they would be particularly careful of the property and the reputation of the whole community.

In short kingdoms are worlds and have their elements, without a harmonious combination of which they cannot exist. The people are the earth that furnishes the necessaries of life. The clergy are the water that tempers the passions; the courts of justice are the air that purifies corrupt humours; and the nobles are the fire that fortifies and braces the constitution. Thus, as kingdoms are epitomes of the world, and towns epitomes of kingdoms, let the elements that compose them, however they may jar a little occasionally, which seems to be unavoidable throughout nature, agree in their general operation; and, since it is impossible they should exist singly, let them for their own comfort and convenience keep their little communities as much as possible in that order, into which the world arose when it emancipated from chaos.

Leicester-Place, Yours very sincerely,

Dec. 21, 1801. C. DIBDIN.

LETTER XLVII.

BERKSHIRE.

JOHN SHELDON, Esq.

MY DEAR SIR,

WHEN I returned to town in July from my first Northern Tour and found myself in possession of a very large mass of intelligence, I determined in good earnest, for till then it had been only a matter in speculation, to improve my information and finally submit the result to the public. I therefore, as I had yet some time to spare, previous to the commencement of my season at LEICESTER PLACE, planned a short tour with a view of visiting again a few towns to the West and getting into HAMPSHIRE, take in PORTSMOUTH, pass through SUSSEX and so get home by the way of BRIGHTHELMSTONE.

To put this scheme in execution, I left LONDON on the sixth of August, dined at the BUSH at STAINES and slept at READING. It will now, therefore, be a proper time to give an account of BERKSHIRE, concerning which place I shall not stay to enquire whether it took its name from a bare oak which grew upon WINDSOR FORFST, round which, like the Spartan public ceremonies, the inhabitants met to talk of public affairs in the air, or from the Saxon word Berroe, which implies plenty of box wood which grew abundantly in this county anterior to the memory of man, but go on and notice that it is bounded on the east by MIDDLESEX and SURRY, on the west by WILTSHIRE and GLOUCESTERSHIRE; on the north by the ri-

ver Thames, by which it is seperated from BUCKINGHAMSHIRE, and on the south by HAMPSHIRE. It is something on some maps in the form of a slipper. Its length from east to west is about forty two miles, its breadth from north to south about twenty nine, and in circumference it is about a hundred and twenty. It is divided into twenty two hundreds and twelve maket towns, it contains a hundred and forty seven parishes; It lies in the province of CANTERBURY and diocese of SALISBURY and returns nine members to parliament.

BERKSHIRE being at such a convenient distance from the capital it is natural to suppose that the situation is courted by all those who live in a style of magnificence and whose time is equally divided between town and country. For this reason, wherever nature has in the smallest degree been sparing of her gifts, the hand of art has been sedulously industrious to make up the deficiency by every ingenious operation of cultivated improvement, and by this means, with the advantages of varied prospects, wood and water, a salubrious air, and a naturally good soil, BERKSHIRE is upon the whole a most desirable part of the kingdom.

The rivers are the Isis, the Thames, the Kennet, the Lodden, the Ocke and the Lambourne. The Isis I shall speak of when I treat of OXFORDSHIRE especially as in opposition to the Cam it has been the subject of much classical controversy. As it enlarges in BERKSHIRE it becomes the Thames. The Kennet is famous for trout which is supposed to be the largest in the kingdom and this I have no doubt is a fact. I have had them of an immense size from HUNGERFORD. The Lambourn has a property contrary to the nature of rivers for it fills in summer and shrinks gradually as winter approaches, till at length it becomes very shallow and sometimes entirely dry, a circumstance that serves to feed the follies of those who augur from it according to appearances, a scarce or plentiful succeeding season. It is however attempted to be accounted for by supposing that there is in the hill from which this river issues a large cavity with a duct in form of a syphon, or crane, such as is used to decant liquors, which supposition being allowed the mystery becomes explained.

It was clear to me from the beginning that, if I went into particulars relative to those counties which surround and are within the vicinity of the capital, I must

go also very largely into a description of gentlemens seats, the magnificence and the number of which taken generally exceed beyond all comparison those of any kingdom in the world. To do them justice therefore a very large part of this work would have been taken up in dissertations on the various proportions in architecture, descriptions of picture galleries, and all that prodigious exercise of science and art on which immense sums have been lavished for the remuneration of thousands of the ingenious and laborious, from the architect, the painter and the sculptor, who build and ornament the palace, down to the labourer who digs the foundation.

For many reasons I have declined this task, though there are some particulars of this description that I shall occasionally take up, but my leading objection is that my observations resulted from a close and accurate survey of nature rather than an investigation of art, and a review of men and manners rather than an examination of ingenuity; and, as my business is more to interest the mind by elucidation than inform it by mere description, I flatter myself my plea will be admitted, especially as the road I have taken has the charm of novelty to recommend it, and that which I have neglected has been trodden till it is become bare.

One very great advantage to BERKSHIRE is that a branch of the great WESTERN Road enters it at MAIDENHEAD which keeping on to BRISTOL and afterwards winding through SOMERSETSHIRE encounters BRUTON, SOMERTON, and TAUNTON, and penetrating the north of DEVONSHIRE by TIVERTON, and SOUTH MOULTON finishes at BARNSTAPLE BAY; and, though this is an inferior branch of the WESTERN Road, yet the great advantages of its leading to BATH and BRISTOL make ample amends for the loss of general passengers by a constant supply of the titled and fashionable.

READING, largely partaking of these advantages, is of course a flourishing town. It is in general well built and stands upon a large tract of ground, and it is full of bustle and business; but it seems to be more of business from hand to mouth than that kind of established trade which converts industry into opulence, and it is on this account that they send malt, meal, and timber to LONDON, to receive coals, salt, groceries and tobacco, and that the manufactures of this place as well as of NEWBURY and HUNGERFORD have gone further west.

It is impossible to speak of READING and forget a most extraordinary natural curiosity near it, at a place called CAT'S GROVE HILL. It is a stratum completely of Oyster shells, or rather of Oysters, on a bed of green sand under which lies a hard rocky chalk. This stratum takes a circumference of six acres and the hill under which it runs is sixty feet in perpendicular height. When the oysters are taken out they appear in every respect real, the opposite valves being enclosed as in the natural state and of the usual form. When opened the oyster appears to be perfect, and the shell in no respect petrified; but having been sometime exposed to the air it crumbles with the smallest pressure. In this same stratum bones of fish have been frequently found, and, as the hill is forty miles from any part of the sea, it has been considered, like different phenomenæ of the same description, as a convincing evidence of the universal deluge, a subject that has been dilated on so incomprehensibly, and explained so inexplicably, that my readers will probably have no objection to leave the question to those who like the lawyers in the play are all fully confirmed in their different opinions.

MAIDENHEAD is said to have received its name from the preservation of the head of one of the eleven hundred virgins who as we are informed suffered martyrdom with ST. URSULA; but this fine and very edifying etymology, has been some think very unhandsomely destroyed by SIMORDUS the Jesuit, who has sunk the eleven hundred virgins to merely URSULA herself and a kind friend; but says that the friend was called UNDECIMILLA, and therefore the Monks, either from their ignorance or to carry some point, mistook, or pretended to mistake this name for *Undecim mille*. ST. URSULA and her friend have not proved half such good patrons to the interest of this town as the gentlemen who entered into a subscription to build a bridge over the Thames.

On the seventh of August I arrived at NEWBURY; a town which would probably have gone to decay long before this had it not been for its situation as a thoroughfare to BATH, and BRISTOL, and the wealth and respectability that characterize its vicinity. It was formerly a place of considerable consequence as a manufacturing town, and as early as HENRY the Eighth it was so flourishing, that JOHN WINSCOMB, commonly called JACK of NEWBURY, was considered as the greatest clothier

in ENGLAND; for, he kept an hundred looms in his house. The manufactures, however, have long left BERKSHIRE, except partially, and have been very properly established nearer the coal-pits. There is a remarkable fine stratum of peat on the banks of the Kennet. The reader knows that peat is a composition of the roots, leaves, and branches of trees, mixed together with grass, straw, plants and weeds, which by lying long in water, are formed into a mass that may be easily cut through with a spade. It is not wonderful, when we consider the prodigious length of time necessary to bring those materials to this state, that the peat diggers should make a great many real and a great many imaginary discoveries, and thus horses and beavers'-heads, deers'-bones, antelopes'-horns, boars'-tusks, urns, axes made of flint, and a variety of similar things, or something very like them, have been discovered in this stratum of peat. The best discovery, however, is that it diffuses comfort round the fire-sides of the poor.

I left NEWBURY for MARLBOROUGH on the eighth, and dined at COOPER'S, a house famous for trout and civility, in HUNGERFORD. This place is favourable to trout, eels, and cray-fish, which are all excellent there; but, as on that very account it is unfavourable to the human constitution, no wonder it is very little more than a thoroughfare for travellers.

Though I have contented myself in this letter with giving merely a description of my route in BERKSHIRE there are yet some general circumstances which cannot be passed by. One of these is that strange custom of the manor of ENBORN, about two miles off NEWBURY, where the widow of a copy-holder on his death is entitled to the quiet possession of all his copyhold estates, unless she should marry or be incontinent, in which case she forfeits her estate; nevertheless, it is permitted her to come on the next court that is held for the manor; but she must ride upon a black ram with the tail in her hand, and in that situation repeat some stupid lines, upon which the steward is obliged to admit her to her former privilege of holding the land.

There are other things; but the circumstance that merits most to be noticed is the figure of a white horse, upon the face of a hill near WANTAGE, which is sup-

posed to have been cut out in the chalk to commemorate some battle in which the Saxons were victorious, and this is conjectured because the white-horse was at the time of ALFRED the Saxon standard. This horse is formed on a steep part of the hill; its dimensions are extended over about an acre of land; its head, neck, body, and tail, consist of one line, and four other lines serves for its legs. It is a strange uncouth object; but, as the chalk is laid bare, and the dark turf serves to edge it, it certainly has even at the distance of several miles something like the appearance of a horse. Travellers indeed, who are enthusiastically fond of antiquity, whether in the shape of a horse or an ass, extol this object as a *chef d'œuvre* in the art of design, and measure by it the great genius and ingenuity of the Saxons. For my part I make a point of never thwarting these gentlemen, especially whenever they are mounted upon their high horse. Several towns claim the right of scouring this horse, and thus the peasants, having an excuse for a holiday now and then, the Saxon horse always appears in good condition.

I find but very few plants in BERKSHIRE that are not common to many other counties. Among those that in some degree vary are the sweet-gale, sweet-willow, or Dutch-myrtle, for it has all these names. It is the *gale frutex adoratus septentrionalium.* The leaves, flowers, and seeds of this plant have a strong fragrant smell and a bitter taste. They are said to be used among the common people to destroy moths and cutaneous insects. There are instances of this being taken internally as an infusion for stomach complaints. They are used as a substitute for hops to preserve malt liquors. This plant is sometimes called *myrtus brocantica.* This plant grows near old WINDSOR.

Solomon's-seal, which is the *polygonatum latifolium vulgare* is to be met with near NEWBURY. It is said to have medical qualities, and particularly its roots have been recommended as vulneraries, restringents, and discutients, and internally as incrassants, and mild corroborants; but they appear now to be in general disused. Narrow-leaved golden longwort *hierarchium pulmonaria dictum augustifolium* is to be found also near NEWBURY, I know nothing of its qualities.

As there is no county in this kingdom that has not produced eminent men, BERKSHIRE may be of course supposed to have its proportion. Archbishop LAUD,

a man of probity and virtue, but certainly too zealously officious, was born at READING. His conduct in the Star Chamber rendered him obnoxious to the English; his implacable resentment against the Presbyterians enraged the Scotch; and his complaining of the increase and insolence of the Papists incensed against him HENNETTA, queen of CHARLES the First. His enemies became at length such a host, that though after a trial of twenty days he had nearly escaped their vengeance, and they plainly saw that they had reason to apprehend the consequence of either a verdict by the peers or a Middlesex jury, they had at length the address and perseverance to get against him a bill of attainder, which after infinite difficulty even passed the two houses, and he was executed at TOWER-HILL, in the seventy-second year of his age. His prosecuting the king's printer for leaving out the word *not* in the seventh commandment was however much applauded. Did he live now perhaps such a measure might be considered as officiousness at least. That upright magistrate Lord Chief Justice HOLT was also a native of READING.

Bishop GOODWIN, author of the Jewish and Roman antiquities, was born at OCKINGHAM. BLAGRAVE, an eminent mathematician, was native of a place near READING, as was Bishop FELL of LONGWORTH. DICKINSON, a celebrated physician and chemist, was born at APPLETON. These, Bishop LLOYD, and HEARNE, the celebrated collater and book-worm, are all that I think it material to notice as natives of BERKSHIRE, which county that I may not be compelled to finish with an anti-climax, gave birth to ALFRED the Great, who was born at WANTAGE. It is little necessary to enumerate the virtues and wonderful qualities of this astonishing man. They are fully and ably recorded in works well calculated for so worthy a purpose, and what may shew their authenticity they never deviate. His undaunted courage and consummate prudence beam through every part of his character; for he wrought security by the first, and established civilization by the latter; and, indeed, it is most wonderful to reflect that at so early and rude a period, he should make regulations and institute laws, the wholesome effect of which are powerfully felt at this very day, and what rendered his reputation more brilliant and transcendent, and gave proof in him of the most finished judgment he was the founder of those schools, through the operation of which could alone be pro-

mulgated those laws, so as to enlighten the minds and guide the actions of mankind.

Leicester-Place, Yours with warm friendship and esteem,

Dec. 3, 1801. C. DIBDIN.

BERKSHIRE

	Farrington	Hungerford	Lambourne	Maidenhead	Newbury	Ockingham	Reading	Wallingford	Wantage	Windsor	London
*† M. & F. Abington to	15	21	15	30	20	33	26	11	9	36	56
Tu. Farrington to		20	14	42	24	44	32	15	8	48	70
Wed. Hungerford to			11	39	9	33	26	27	13	44	65
Lambourn to				38	20	32	25	14	20	43	68
* Wed. Maidenhead to					39	18	13	20	38	9	26
* Thurs. Newbury to						24	17	22	21	36	56
Tues. Ockingham to							7	22	32	18	33
* † Sat. Reading to								15	25	19	39
* † Tu. & F. Wallingford to									14	29	46
Wantage to										44	59
* † Sat. Windsor to											22

A table of distances in BERKSHIRE. Corporation Towns, governed by a Mayor and Aldermen, are distinguished thus *; boroughs thus †; the market towns have the initials of the days placed against them.

‡ ABINGTON sends but one member to parliament, and thus including the members for the county, they amount in all to nine.

LETTER XLVIII.

WILTSHIRE.

JOHN SHELDON, Esq.

MY DEAR SIR.

To avoid the appearance of giving partial or disjointed intelligence, as well as to ascertain the quantity of matter I shall be able to collect at each place, I shall now when I take up a county go on with it to a finish, that so I may render it more interesting. Having arrived at MARLBOROUGH on the eighth of August, in conformity to this rule it will be expedient to offer all I have to say concerning WILTSHIRE, which has I confess a good deal to recommend it to the reader's notice, but not so much as some other provinces, which it will therefore be my business to describe more minutely.

WILTSHIRE is bounded on the north and north-west by GLOUCESTERSHIRE, on the north-east by BERKSHIRE, on the east and south-east by HAMPSHIRE, on the south by DORSETSHIRE, and on the west by SOMERSETSHIRE. It extends fifty-four miles in length from north to south, thirty-eight in breadth from east to west, and is about one hundred and forty-two in circumference. It is divided into twenty-nine hundreds, and contains the city of SALISBURY, and twenty-three market towns, and has three-hundred and four parishes. It is seated in the province of YORK, and diocese of SALISBURY, and sends thirty-four members to parliament.

The principal rivers are the Thames, the upper and lower Avon, the Kennet, the Bourne, the Willey, and the Nedder. The Thames need not here be described. The upper Avon rises in this county near Devizes, and running southward, passes by the city of Salisbury, where receiving several other streams, it proceeds to the south-east by Downton, and from thence flows into Hampshire. The lower Avon rises in Gloucestershire; I shall therefore describe it in my account of that province. The Kennet seems to proceed from the same source as the upper Avon. It passes by Marlborough, and runs eastward into Berkshire. The Bourne rises near Luggershall, and running south and south-west, falls into the upper Avon on the east side of Salisbury. The Willey rises near Warminster, and running south-east passes by Haresbury, and at length after receiving the Nedder, falls into the upper Avon, on the west side of Salisbury. The Nedder, or Naeddre, an adder, takes that name from its serpentine course. It rises near Shaftsbury in Dorsetshire, and winding into Wiltshire, falls into the Willey at Wilton. The inferior rivers are the Calne, the Deveril, and the Were.

Out of many mineral springs which are to be found in this county, those at Chippenham, at West Ashton, at Road, and at Holt, are the most celebrated. There is nothing however related of them that gives them a superior rank to hundreds of others that nobody either knows or cares about. Wiltshire is by no means so fine a county as either Berkshire or Dorsetshire. A large part of it consists of downs, on which prodigious numbers of sheep are fed, but which to travellers from the tedious sameness of up and down hill without the smallest object to vary the prospect, are tiresome beyond any thing I know in travelling. To wait for the summit of a hill in expectation of some new diversity, returns delight for labour, but the sensation felt by such perpetual mounting and descending without the smallest variety, for twenty miles together, puts one in mind of the sickness occasioned by the pitching of a ship in a dull calm, when the motion is undulation and nothing else, and from this it is perhaps that a very intelligent writer calls Salisbury Plain, a public nuisance.

In return, however, the northern parts of Wiltshire abound with pretty prospects. I cannot afford a stronger word; they are merely pretty; and, though

they might make neat drawings, there is nothing in them in the style of a good picture. I shall hereafter speak of the agriculture of this county. SALISBURY PLAIN is said for extent and beauty to be one of the most delightful spots in the kingdom. Its extent is about fifty miles in length from east to west, and in some places from thirty-five to forty in breadth. Its beauty, if it must be so, I have already described, the place, however, has been more celebrated by those who in admiration of the sublime and beautiful, fall into the doubtful.

As to barrows, roads, and causeways, I do not believe so many writers would have stopt to examine them more here than at many other places, had it not been to ease the aching eyes after a contemplation of that stupendous and incomprehensible object STONEHENGE. Perhaps no subject ever employed so many able yet so many ineffectual, pens as this; and, after most indefatigable pains have been most ingeniously taken, nothing has been the result of all the controversies except a number of conjectures, no one of which has the smallest resemblance to any of the others. Some great writers have chosen to assert that it was a monument erected at the command of AURELIUS, a British king, by the advice of MERLIN, the British Enchanter, in memory of the Britons slaughtered at, or near the place, by HENGIST the Saxon. Thus writers go beyond their mark. Had the fact being insisted on, and no more, one might have been induced to give credit to it, under a general idea that the historian believed what he related; but, when it is positively said to be done by the advice of MERLIN, and at the command of AURELIUS, it seems to be so like a juggle between the king and the enchanter, that our imaginations are instantly assailed by a recollection of the prince and the fisherman in the Rehearsal.

Other writers, without any qualification at all, pronounce it to be a sepulchral monument of BOADICEA, sheltering themselves under the cunning idea that, if nobody can say that it is so, it will be difficult to prove that it is not. INIGO JONES has endeavoured to prove that it is the remains of a temple of the Tuscan order, built by the Romans, and consecrated to the god Cælum, or Terminus; but why of the Tuscan order? and why not to any other god? From the greatest men we have a right to the soundest reasons. Dr. STUKELY has perhaps arrived

nearest to the truth, by saying, that it was a temple built by the ancient Britons, and those who have gone on in this tract, seem to keep probability in view by adding, that it was erected for the religious rites of the Druids; where the question might as well have rested, conjecture being all we can get at, and this conjecture being the most feasible.

This however is not enough for the restless nature of mankind. An author determined to come at the truth, informs us, that in the reign of HENRY the Eighth, a tablet of tin was found in unknown characters which, could they have been understood, probably gave some account of the origin of STONEHENGE; but, as none of the learned antiquaries, not even Sir THOMAS ELLIOT and Mr. LILY could form any thing out of it, the whole business continued to be involved in its original doubt, and the author was reduced to the situation of Scrub, who is sure he has found out a plot, because he does not know what to make of it. All that can be, or perhaps ought to be said is, that the mass of stones in question is a most extraordinary and stupendous object; and as it cannot have been placed in that form and situation by any effort of nature, which some have suspected, it argues that the ancients had wonderful ideas and wonderful resources in the formation of their public erections; but whether it was formed to perpetuate fame, to do honour to religion, or for whatever purpose, the most enlightened authors stand no better chance of coming at the real truth, nor does it signify three-pence whether they come at it or not, than the most incurious of all those travellers, who stop, are astonished, and ride on.

It will be impossible for me to dwell long on WILTSHIRE. I shall however speak of those towns which at different times I visited, and such other matters as I have been accustomed to introduce. CHIPPENHAM is seated on the lower AVON, over which a very handsome bridge is thrown of sixteen arches. It is a pleasant and lively town, being one of the great thoroughfares from LONDON to BRISTOL, and indeed the road which is and ought to be preferred; for, though upon the whole the road itself is not so good as the BATH road through DEVIZES, yet there is scarcely any thing more various and picturesque, particularly the ten miles to MARSHFIELD. CALNE to make amends for its being a small town is said to be an ancient one.

A remarkable accident happened at CALNE in 977 during a Synod which was held there to decide a contest between the regular and secular priests. In the course of the debate, as a Scotch Bishop was pleading with great warmth in favour of the seculars, all the timbers of the assembly-room suddenly gave way and that part of the structure where the seculars were placed fell to the ground and killed several of them. The seats of DUNSTON, however, and the monks that were near him, remained unshaken. Which being interpreted as a miraculous interference of heaven, that cunning priest whose freaks the reader pretty well knows, pronounced it a declaration in favour of the monks, whom he ordered to take the places of the few secular priests who were left alive. It has been said that the timbers were loosened by his command.

MARLBOROUGH which consists of one long cheerful street is a busy bustling town. It is exactly in the road both to BATH and BRISTOL, and therefore has the advantage as a post town of any place beyond. The inhabitants are almost all shopkeepers but are nevertheless wealthy, sociable, and content. I believe this is the character of the place. I know nothing else remarkable. Perhaps this may be thought quite enough. DEVIZES is a large and by no means an ill looking town, though it carries with it evident marks of antiquity. They trade in wool at DEVIZES woollen cloth, and malt; but the publicity of the road and the advantages it reaps from the visits of travellers both there and in most of the towns in WILTSHIRE constitute the best part of their wealth, which, indeed, is assisted by the number of persons of fortune, and property, who reside in their different vicinities. WARMINSTER may be known with little variation by the same description. Perhaps the trade particularly in malt is somewhat more extensive. SALISBURY I have already spoken of and it finishes the list of places I visited in WILTSHIRE.

Among the remarkable plants growing wild in this county is yellow berried holly, *Agrifolium baccis luteis.* It varies in no respect from other hollies but in the colour of the berries. It is found near WARDOUR Castle belonging to Lord ARUNDEL. Sweet scented female fern, *felix fœmina adorata,* is to be met with in the forest of SAVERNECK, belonging to the Marquis of HERTFORD. The long trailing dog grass, *gramen caninum supinum longissimum,* which contains so much nutri-

ment that it will fatten hogs, the blades of which are some of them five and twenty feet long, grows at Maddington. The greater and lesser sort of water knot grass *gramen geniculatem aquaticum,* are found about Wilton and Warminster.

Cress-Rocket, *Narsturtium sylvestre erucae affine,* is like all this cress tribe, warm, good for the scurvy, and to mix in cataplasms. If the leaves of the common narsturtium are cut into sallad scarcely any difference can be discerned from the taste of the garden cress. This particular sort of cress is not a differenr species, but a variety of the land cress, and it is strongly related to that which the French call cochleria, which is indeed its classical name, and which is used very much by French dentists. It grows on Salisbury Plain. Solomon's seal, *Polygonatum vulgare.* This is one species of the lily of the valley, of which are enumerated eight. It is found about two miles from Salisbury. Another and a dwarf species of this plant, *polygonatum humile Anglicum,* is found in the woods in Wiltshire. Ladies mantle, *stellaria,* or, *sanicula major.* The leaves of this plant are esteemed to be vulnerary, drying and binding and of great force to stop inward bleedings. The styptic matter is extracted both by water and spirit; the roots are more astringent than the leaves, and the extracts made from them proportionably stronger. A short account of celebrated characters will bring me out of Wiltshire.

That famous and fanciful writer Hobbs, author of the Leviathan, which drew on him a number of adversaries, and which was formally censured by Parliament and the convocation, was born at Malmsbury in 1588. Hobbs could not be said to be what Pope calls Gay, a safe companion, which in Addison would have been called faint praise; for, though he was evidently wrong in all his assertions he could not be persuaded to change his opinion. Perhaps this was the reason why his friends denied him his last request, which was to place on his tombstone, "this is the philosopher's stone," in which they acted perfectly right. Better to deny the author than to abuse posterity. Scott who is known as an informed, and exemplary divine, and who is said to have refused a bishoprick because he did not chuse to take the oaths of allegiance to King William, was the son of a grazier at Chippenham.

HUGHES whose story I have given among the dramatic poets in *The History of the Stage*, who united with some reputation, poetry, painting, and music, and who died on the very night when his Siege of Damascus was first performed, was a native of MARLBOROUGH. ADDISON of whom I have also spoken at length in the above publication, and whose writings record his merit, was born at AMBROSBURY. Sir JOHN DAVIES, an eminent lawyer and spoken of as a poet, was a native of CHISGROVE, in WILTSHIRE. He was a man of eminence, and, after passing through many honourable employments with credit and respectability, was appointed Lord Chief Justice of the Court of King's Bench, but he died suddenly before he could be installed. Sir CHRISTOPHER WREN, whose splendid reputation as an architect is so well known, and will be so well remembered as long at HAMPTON-COURT PALACE GREENWICH HOSPITAL, the MONUMENT, ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, and about sixty other public buildings remain, was born at EAST KNOYLE, in WILTSHIRE. He was a professor at GRESSHAM COLLEGE, a fellow of the Royal Society, and his literary works have the same strength of mind and information which are conspicuous in his other studies.

CHUBB, though the son of a Maltster, and bred a glover, emancipated from obscurity and made some stand as a writer upon theological subjects. He seems however rather to have been bit than called, which is generally the case when men of low education become enthusiasts. NORRIS a kind of mystic divine, was a curious character. He was a professed admirer of PLATO and MALBRANCHE, and became a perfect Idealist, and to this turn of mind must be ascribed the strange things that are to be found in his writings, which all tend to the tiresome and unsatisfying dogma of ascertaining any thing but certainty. ALDHAM the famous monk of MALMSBURY; WLLIAM of MALMSBURY who compiled a most curious and fanciful history of ENGLAND; THOMAS STUMPS, famous like JACK OF NEWRURY and called the clothier of MALMSBURY; JOANNES SARISBURIENSIS, who wrote the Polycraticum; all these were natives of WILTSHIRE.

MASSINGER, whose extraordinary merit as a dramatic writer is well known, and who in many particulars ranks only second to SHAKESPEAR, was born at SALISBURY. HYDE, Lord CLARENDON, with whose history every man of reading is familiar, was

a native of WILTSHIRE. The merits of his conduct have been variously discussed. His invincible rectitude which no aggrandizement could corrupt, which neither his obligations to his sovereign, his near alliance to the royal family, nor all the distinctions which were profusely heaped upon him, could shake, has been treated by some as republican enthusiasm, and by others as steady and honest patriotism. Strides for and against power will always have their different advocates, and violence on either side will never fail to do mischief. Perhaps if the mind of CLARENDON could have been tempered with that conciliation necessary for a court, his rough and positive virtues might with some amelioration have been beneficial to his royal master, and he preserved from degradation, and exile.

Yours, my dear Sir,

Leicester-Place, with perfect sincerity,

Dec. 21, 1801. C. DIBDIN.

WILTSHIRE

	Calne	Chippenham	Cricklade	Devizes	Downton	Heytesbury	Luggershall	Malmsbury	Marlborough	Salisbury	Trowbridge	Warminster	Wotton Basset	London
Tues. Ambresbury to	44	32	35	16	14	15	10	46	19	8	22	18	29	78
† Tues. Calne to		6	20	8	42	22	24	15	13	30	18	25	11	88
† Sat. Chippenham to			22	11	39	22	25	10	19	33	15	23	74	94
† Sat. Cricklade to				26	55	38	29	13	18	49	46	53	9	84
* † Thurs. Devizes to					28	12	15	30	14	22	10	17	28	90
† Downton to						23	24	58	33	6	36	28	44	88
† Heytesbury to							31	31	26	17	13	5	31	94
† Luggershall to								34	11	38	25	35	22	71
† Sat. Malmsbury to									23	52	27	35	11	96
* † Sat. Marlborough to										27	24	31	11	75
* † Tu. & S. Salisbury to											30	22	38	81
Sat. Trowbridge to												9	66	99
Sat. Warminster to													30	98
* † Fri. Wotton Basset to														90

A table of distances in WILTSHIRE. Corporation Towns, governed by a Mayor and Aldermen, are distinguished thus *; boroughs thus †; the market towns have the initials of the days placed against them.

The boroughs in addition to those above are HINDON, GREAT BODMIN, WESTBURY, WILTON, and OLD SARUM, which with two for the county make up thirty-four members.

LETTER XLIX.

A CIRCUIT AND SUSSEX.

JOHN SHELDON, Esq.

MY DEAR SIR,

THOUGH in this Third Tour, which I have considered as a convenient introduction to my second volume, I touched at a number of places in SOMERSETSHIRE, DORSETSHIRE, HAMPSHIRE, and SUSSEX; yet as I have given an account of some of them, and shall have better opportunity hereafter to speak of the rest, I think it would be injudicious to divide the interest which a more ample description will create; and, therefore, I shall merely speak of my progress till I finish with SUSSEX, whence I returned home in order to prepare for my second Northern Tour.

I got from MARLBOROUGH on the eleventh by stratagem; for every carriage at that time which could be laid hold of, was pressed to convey the soldiery who were thus, not by forced marches, for many of them were in such a state they were not able to march at all, but by carriages forced from their owners, conveyed in triumph from different parts of the kingdom to the sea coasts, to embark for HOLLAND, I must confess I thought it a great hardship, and a wanton stretch of power, that these gentlemen-soldiers would not be content with waggons, stage-coaches, and hack-chaises, but that the most elegant equipages, to the detention and inconvenience of their owners, should be defiled by smoking,

gin-drinking, and all the lovely et-ceteras incident to the reception of intoxicated soldiers, filthy women, and squallid children.

One might dwell upon the temporary distress occasioned by this coersion, and really a long letter, could one have come at the particulars, might have formed out of the inconvenience by this delay, to so many persons, who on business or pleasure were perhaps pinned to a given hour. The fidgety uneasiness to themselves, the concern of those who were in expectation of them, the aukward distress of others who had brought out with them only just enough to pay their way, might have furnished me with good digressive matter, which, however, I must beg my readers to picture in their own imaginations, and only take into their consideration that these good people were not sufferers long, and that in the end they were repaid for their inconvenience, by having an opportunity of relating an adventure, a circumstance which always makes a desirable epoch in the annals of travelling.

As I have already hinted that my escape was connived at, I shall be willingly excused from relating the manner of it. Certainly if it had not taken place, I might as well on the next day have returned home; for, as I had given notice of my intended visits upon a plan, the least deviation from which would have completely deranged my whole scheme, no possible alteration could have taken place to effect, and the consequences as far as they would have gone, might have been unpleasant enough. As it turned out, I had nothing to regret. I out generalled the general; and, had I not been capable of doing so, I should have been unworthy the tuition I received from so able a manoeverer, as he used to call himself, as my friend the smuggler, whose history I have given in my strictures on the SCILLY ISLANDS.

I arrived safe at DEVIZES, not without using some necessary precaution, and on the next day, the embargo having been taken off, I got away to FROME, and from thence on the fourteenth arrived at WELLS, where I received some most liberal kindness, which I would willingly dwell on were it not that if I were to indulge myself on subjects of this description, I thould get into more detail than

in enumerating ancient relics, because existing benevolence is easier ascertained than dead grandeur, and because the generosity of one I delight in, and the misery of the other I can only deplore.

From WELLS I reached BRIDGEWATER on the fifteenth, on the next day I visited TAUNTON, and on the eighteenth had the pleasure of taking some of my friends by the hand at SHAFTSBURY who will be pleased probably at my assuring them here that their kindness, which I promised them at that time never to forget, is at this moment warm in my memory. I arrived at SHERBORNE on the twentieth; and, if that town had been full on my former visit on account of the bishops's visitation, it was no less so at this time on account of the races. A season which I will allow diffuses universal pleasure, provided any body can make me believe that to be a pleasure which precludes comfort. On the twenty second I got to DORCHESTER, of which place I learned nothing either new or particular. I reached BLANDFORD on the twenty third, and on the twenty fifth sat out for PORTSMOUTH; where on the following day, having passed over the NEW-FOREST and slept at ROMSEY, I arrived and was heartily welcomed by the sons of Neptune.

As I mean to give a very full account of HAMPSHIRE towards the end of this work, and place PORTSMOUTH by the side of PLYMOUTH, according to my former intimation, I shall only say at present, that, after passing a few days there highly to my satisfaction, I set off for CHICHESTER on the first of September; and as I now mean to finish with SUSSEX it will be proper at this opportunity to go into the usual particulars relative to different counties in addition to those I have already mentioned.

CHICHESTER is situated on the river Lavant, by which it is surrounded on every side except on the north. Its distance from LONDON is sixty three miles. This city, though of great antiquity, is perfectly neat and clean. All the accounts of this and almost every other place are spun into volumes by confident yet unsupported histories of military ways, ancient coins, inscriptions, pickaxes, and roman pavements. This city is built like almost every other, having four gates from each of which runs a street, and they all terminate very cordially at the market place,

their natural and friendly point of union. CHICHESTER is a county of itself, in which circumstance there is some singularity for it should seem as if the assizes ought to be held there regularly instead of occasionally at LEWES, HORSHAM, and that paltry place East GRINSTED.

CHICHESTER has a great deal of coasting trade and prodigious large quantities of malt are made there and the neighbouring farmers are very rich and opulent, perhaps too much so when the considerations enumerated in my letter on the subject of monopoly are taken in. Their principal manufacture used to be needles, but by what judgement I could form, and when a public entertainment is called in to serve as a criterion the result is generally pretty correct, the best sort of the inhabitants, as they are called, consist of persons of middling fortunes. At CHICHESTER, for the first time in my life, I tasted wheatears, a species of bird which has been called the English ortolan. They are smaller than the jack or half snipe, and have something of the same flavour, but it is beyond expression finer.* It is unnecessary to mention that BOGNOR near CHICHESTER is become a fashionable watering place.

* As this bird is esteemed a delicious table rarity, I shall give rather a particular account of it. It is the common œnanthe of LINNEAS and is also called the fallow-finch. It differs from the whin-chat and the stone-chatter, both which, though of the same species, by feeding differently, have by no means the same delicate flavour, which however the knowledge of its food will not with some very highly recommend, for they are fond of all insects of the beetle species. They are fattest in rainy seasons because, in addition to their favourite food, they get plenty of earth worms. I rather think however that their greatest delicacies, by which they are rendered delicious themselves, are only to be procured about harvest time and these are almost imperceptible flies which cover the wild thyme, and others the grains of wheat. I apprehend these last are the tripulœ tritici a treatise on which, Dr. GARNETT tell us in his Annals of Philosophy, the Rev. Mr. KIRBY has rendered almost complete; and, as it is a most destructive insect to our staple nutriment, the wheatear may be said to be doubly useful to man by not only furnishing a dainty in itself, but purifying the bread with which it is eaten. Those insects which flutter about the wild thyme however certainly have its preference, for it is found in no county where these do not abound, whereas wheat, thanks to providence and agricultural skill, is to be found every where. In SUSSEX this delicacy is caught more than in any part of ENGLAND and about EAST BOURNE more than in any part of SUSSEX. They build in the deserted burrows of rabbits and other holes whither they precipitate themselves for shelter, and it is on this account they are so easily caught by simply placing snares made of horse hair under a turf, where, being very timid, they are readily driven. Eighteen hundred and forty dozen have been entrapped in a year. These birds begin to visit us about the middle of March, and disappear in September.

HORSHAM is a large town. All I could learn of it is, that it has a fine church, a county jail, a well endowed free school; that it derives its name from HORSA, the brother of HENGIST the Saxon, and that it supplies the LONDON market with prodigious numbers of poultry. ARUNDEL, or ARUNDALE, so called from its situation, which is a valley near the river ARUN; is famous for its castle, which was defended by WILLIAM D'ALBANI against king STEPHEN, in favour of the empress MAUD, whom, in reward, she created earl of ARUNDEL, which title is in its limitation different from others; for that honour is so annexed, that whosoever is in possession of this castle and seignory, is without creation earl of ARUNDEL. It is a clean town, and lies in a genteel neighbourhood. Could I find time to enumerate gentlemen's seats, I should begin in this county with ARUNDEL castle; improved as it is by the duke of NORFOLK, into whose family it went from the ALBANI by marriage; the duke of RICHMOND's seat at GOODWOOD, and lord EGREMONT's at PETWORTH,

BRIGHTHELMSTON, which from a inconsiderable fishing hamlet, is grown into an immensely large and populous town, is the last place I shall speak of in SUSSEX; and, as it is well known as a watering place, indeed too well by many, a very few words will be sufficient to describe it. It is remarkable literally for sheep and figuratively for pigeons. It has one church and a great many raffling shops. In short, it is a very flourishing and popular place, where they manufacture fashion, carry on a large commerce in frivolity, and deal in a great variety of commodities, particularly cards. As it is a leading watering place, I shall shew it in its best colours when I hereafter speak of it, upon a comparison with other towns of the same description.

There are a great many remarkable plants which grow wild in this county, though there are but few peculiar to it. Bugle with a red flower, *Bugula flore rubro*, is found in the weald brooks. Bugle is a noted vulnerary, much used in potions of that intention, and also in plasters, especially among the French, with whom it is a proverb, that he who has bugle and sanicle, has no occasion for a surgeon. Dittander, or poor man's pepper wort, *piperata.* This plant is supposed to be good in cataplasms, to help the sciatica. When chewed, the leaves cause

a great flux of rheum. It is given by ignorant women in the same absurd way, that they use penny royal. This plant is also called the sciatica cress. It is found near ARUNDEL, and so is Alexanders or horse-parsley, of which I have spoken before. Climbing fumitory, *fumaria alba latifolia*. According to MI LER, there are twelve species of fumitory, some of which have been considered as valuable in medicine. The common is famous for the scurvy and the jaundice, and also for cutanious disorders.

Jagged marsh flea-bane, *helenitis foliis laciniatis*. This plant has been strongly recommended by old authors for cutaneous disorders, and it is supposed, that the smoke from it in a room destroys fleas and other insects. Bear's-foot is a hellebore, of which I have already taken notice; this species is to be found near HOUGHTON. Yellow flowering mullen, *blattaria flore lute*, grows near AMBERLEY church-yard. Of mullen, or mullein, there are thirteen species. The common sorts which are used in medicine, grow on banks on the highways. It is accounted a good pectoral. It is also used in fomentations, and is particularly useful in swellings of the hæmorrhoids. Deadly night-shade, *solanum lethale*, is a plant so far from being peculiar to SUSSEX, that it is too universally known. This species of it is most expressively in Botany called simply *atropa*. The other sorts which are almost to infinity, and among them the potatoe, which was once unanimously considered to be a poison, are solanums. The medical virtues of the different night-shades, are, I am afraid, extremely doubtful, and physicians have very cautiously ventured on any recommendation of them; but I should not wonder, nevertheless, to find them by and by resorted to. The fox-glove, which was formerly most carefully administered, is now a common medicine, so is arsenic, so is hemlock; and who shall say, that as appetite is only to be renewed by going from pepper to cayenne, and so on through the catalogue of an oil-shop, that the diseases contracted by high-living, will not in the end enforce a necessity of calling in one poison to expel another.

Most of the remainder I have already spoken of. Such are the wild madder *rubia sylvestris*, belonging to DEVONSHIRE; the *rosa solis*, belonging to CORNWALL; the Dutch myrtle, the bastard hellebore, and the scurvy-grass, which is coch-

learia. This is allied to all pungent plants, from the garden-cress to the horse-radish.* Others, though there is nothing in vegetation without its use, have no medical virtues, at least to my knowledge. Marsh St. Peter's Wort, with hoary leaves, *ascyron supinum villosum palustre,* is a very common plant, and found in the weald brooks. Black-berried heath, *erica baccifera nigra,* has nothing uncommon in it, and the berry tufted horse-shoe vetch, *ferrum equinum comosum,* is a species of pulse, of which the varieties are not to be enumerated. Musked crow's-bill, *geranium moschatum,* is in the same manner a variety from the numerous family of geraniums. Hair's-tail rush, *gramen juncoides,* is a well-known rush, and grows in the weald brooks. Knee-holly, or butcher's-broom, *ruscus,* is common; so is the beam-tree, *sorbis silvestris,* and a few others that are mentioned as exclusively the production of SUSSEX. I shall hasten therefore to give some account of celebrated characters, and afterwards make the best of my way home.

BRADWARDINE, a divine of extensive learning, who was made Archbishop of CANTERBURY, in consequence of his exemplary conduct, in quality of confessor and preacher to EDWARD the Third in his wars against FRANCE, which inspired the soldiers with a holy fervour, and therefore greatly contributed to their success, was born at CHICHESTER. Sir EDWARD FORD, who suffered severely for the cause of CHARLES the First, and who afterwards was employed by CROMWELL and the city of LONDON, to raise the Thames water into the highest streets of the city, which he performed, throwing it in eight-inch pipes ninety-three feet above its level, and who as an excellent mathematician, was otherwise of great public use, was born at UP-PARK. Sir ROBERT DUDLEY, natural son to ROBERT DUDLEY, Earl of LEICESTER, was a native of OFFINGTON. He was a great mathematician, architect and navigator. He destroyed nine Spanish ships of considerable force, and was afterwards very celebrated in GERMANY, where the Emperor FERDINAND the Second made him a nobleman of the empire.

Bishop JUXTON, whose worth and piety marked throughout his life a conduct which, notwithstanding the very exalted situation he filled of Lord High Treasurer, at which the jealous indignation of the nobility was greatly excited, was

strictly exemplary and unimpeachable. Indeed his integrity was so unshaken and his demeanour so correct that even in those times no steps were taken to molest him. He remained firm to his royal master in all exigencies. He attended him on the scaffold and afterwards accompanied his body to WINDSOR. Perhaps the best thing done by CHARLES the Second was his promotion of this virtuous and valuable man to the see of CANTERBURY immediately after the Restoration. MAY, an account of whom will be found in *The History of the Stage*. SACKVILLE, the first Lord BUCKHURST, also spoken of there at length, and OTWAY, were all born in this county.

PELL an eminent linguist, philosopher, and mathematician, was born at SOUTHWYKE. KIDDER was a man of great learning. He was created Bishop of BATH and WELLS, upon the deprivation of KEN, who refused to take the oath of allegiance to King WILLIAM. His death was remarkable and melancholy. It was occasioned by the fall of a stack of chimnies in the great storm of 1703. He and his lady were in bed and they both shared the same fate. The celebrated SELDON was as well as were those above born in SUSSEX. He was a man of great and extensive knowledge whether as an antiquary, a historian, or a lawyer. He had great influence and possessed many virtues.

Having so long dwelt on the ingenious, I shall finish my letter with a touch of the surprizing by mentioning the three PALMERS, sons to EDWARD PALMER, Esq. remarkable for their extraordinary births. Their mother was in labour fourteen days. On Whitsunday was born JOHN, on Trinity Sunday came HENRY, and on the Sunday following THOMAS. They all lived to be very brave men and were knighted for their valourous exploits. So says my intelligence, and with it I take my leave of SUSSEX, which county I quitted on the seventh of September, and that evening arrived at home.

Thanks my dear friend for your attention.

Leicester-Place, Yours very truly,

Dec. 26, 1801. C. DIBDIN.

SUSSEX.

	Battel	Brighthelmstone	Chichester	aEst Grinstead	Hastings	Horsham	Lewes	Midhurst	Petworth	Rye	Winchelsea	London
*† W. & S. Arundel to	50	20	10	36	60	22	29	16	11	71	68	61
Thurs. Battel to		34	60	40	9	58	26	64	57	15	13	56
Thurs. Brighthelmstone to			30	29	40	20	9	33	13	51	48	58
*† W. & S. Chichester to				41	70	26	40	11	13	76	78	63
† Fri. East Grinstead to					34	15	20	35	29	40	38	28
*† W. & S. Hastings to						49	28	60	67	11	8	64
† Sat. Horsham to							20	20	14	54	57	35
† Sat. Lewes to								42	49	37	36	49
† Midhurst to									7	78	68	50
Sat. Petworth to										71	67	49
*† W. & S. Rye to											4	62
*† Sat, Winchelsea to												66

A table of distances in SUSSEX. Corporation Towns, governed by a Mayor and Aldermen, are distinguished thus *; boroughs thus †; the market towns have the initials of the days placed against them.

In addition to those towns marked above, which send members to parliament, NEW SHOREHAM, BRAMBER, STEYNING, and SEAFORD, nominates two each, which with two for the county, make twenty-eight.

LETTER XLX.

OMENS.

WILLIAM WOODFALL, Esq.

MY DEAR SIR,

THAT there is an alloy in the composition of every human mind, will be conceded without any great stretch of repugnance. This quality is sometimes evanescent and flies off, like the passion of a Welshman, doing as much mischief as possible in a small portion of time; in which case care must be taken not to come in contact with the explosion; at other times, it lies sullen in a deleterious state, corroding the finer and nobler sensations, and operating upon them till they become unnaturally callous. Hence are wicked and abominable thoughts engendered; hence envy, uncharitableness, and the long train of crimes which, as well as ills, our flesh is heir to.

I will not however give myself or my readers the pain of examining this question so deeply, my intention being at present not to go into vice but folly, from which misfortune, as ARISTOTLE tells us, the most excellent soul is not exempt; and adds that, as wisdom is a regular government of the soul, which is carried on with measure and proportion, and for which she is accountable to herself, and he might have added to others, all transports that surpass our judgements, however commendable in their intention, are folly.

Credulity is the parent of that particular folly, or that operation of general folly, on which I am going to treat, and I mean to speak of it rather at large out of compassion to those who, from an imbecility of mind brought on by irresolution, render themselves at length a prey to nervous disorders; a complaint the more unfortunate, because medical men have long since one and all given up the point as to the possibility of treating it, owing to their total ignorance of that system whence it originates, all which makes the case more lamentable, for it is by this means clearly one of those in which the patient must administer to himself, and what chance can he possibly stand of success, deserted by the whole faculty.

It has been well said that wise men and even wise governments may by surprise do foolish things; for every mind and every doctrine is fallible, and I know not as this imperfection runs through nature, from the sun which has spots to the man who has absurdities, whether a perfect creature or a perfect object of any sort ought not to be considered as a thing out of its place; for, as every thing is necessarily mutable and fragile, so that diversity in which mankind are constantly fluctuating seems to combine and embrace all our springs of action, and all this may be very well, occasionally, but to use these various qualities so as to operate against our best pleasures, our real enjoyments, our reasonable gratifications, and to suffer our minds so to be weakened and enervated as to reject reality and grasp imagination, is as ridiculous as it is unaccountable; and yet, from the influence of curiosity, and the prevalence of custom, there is hardly a human being who is not in some degree afflicted with this lamentable malady.

I have always considered the propensity which I here think it laudable to reprobate with a mixture of anger and commiseration, and my refuge from the uneasiness I have felt, for surely the misfortunes of mankind ought to excite interest and concern, has been a hope of finding the contagion local and confined, or that one species of it has raged in a place; but, alas, in this fond wish I have only proved myself as credulous as the worst of them, for this tour has convinced me, indeed I had received some hints before, that the whole catalogue of imaginary evils have been as regularly and as evenly scattered throughout the

kingdom, as if fancy had acted the Pandora and, blind and careless as she is, had even let hope fly off to be swallowed and dissolved in the vapourous mist.

How comes it, else, that the same thieves and strangers insinuate themselves into candles and tea, with the same facility, at the SCILLY ISLES as in the Highlands of SCOTLAND? The pleasure and the dread arising from purses and coffins that hop out of the fire are certainly confined to those who burn sea coal, and the consumers of turf and peat are exempt from these blessings and misfortunes; but in revenge candles will burn as bright a blue in a hovel as in a palace, and the moon, being a universal object, the neglect of looking at her over the left shoulder is equally unpardonable in every place; and, if people will be so careless as to omit this necessary and becoming ceremony, at the same time turning their money if they happen to have any, who would pity them if they should want it all that moon?

Follies of this description may be seperated into many classes. Some arise from an inferior species of the Hypocondria, and excite merely pity. In this class are the misfortunes occasioned by laying knives across, seeing winding sheets in the candle, spilling salt, looking at a single crow as it passes over a road, and other portentous and dreadful omens of a similar nature. Others, a composition of credulity and cunning, provoke a smile. These are cutting nails upon a particular day for good luck*, which day however has not yet been ascertained; putting on something new of an easter day, for fear the birds should behave rudely to you; taking care not to go under a ladder lest you should be hanged, some say married by the end of the year†; under which many hundreds are sure to pass, and yet neither the TYBURN Chronicle, nor the Church Registers seem to get a whit beyond their usual standard.

* There is an unfortunate drawback upon this experiment. While you are cutting your nails, you must not upon any account think of a fox's tail. The consequence is that that like, the Irishman who unconsciously plays Stony Batter, you think of nothing else.

† It is remarkable how people, by giving into these extravagant fancies, realize their own fears. JACK SHEPPERD declared that he should never have been hanged had it not so happened that, being on horseback when he was a very young man, the horse stumbled at TYBURN.

A third sort are a mixture of distrust and uncharitableness, and therefore merit reproach, particularly as they are generally levelled against harmless old women. Breaking egg-shells for fear witches should go to sea in them, is a notable feat in this way. It really however is not our affair, or if it were, do I see how the precaution would avert the evil, for it is very unlikely that those who can sail in so commodious a vessel as a sieve, would take a fancy to such a cock-boat as an egg-shell. Nailing a horse-shoe at the threshold, and laying straws across to avert their charms are also instances of this provident, though restless and not very sensible precaution; for if a tottering old creature, whom it would be more charitable to treat with tenderness and assistance than neglect and distrust, should happen to stumble at those spell-bound places, a thing by the by very naturally to be expected, her age is no longer her protection; her weakness and infirmities lose their title to compassion; if, from imbecility, she should mutter to herself, she is holding a conversation with the devil; the almost extinguished glare of her eye is witchcraft and fascination; the paralytic movement of her frame is diabolical extasy; and thus, in a world where it is the duty of humanity to cherish and protect her, she is cruelly hunted and tormented to her last moment, nor have her persecutors the mercy to spare her only friend upon earth, the harmless cat.

Another class of these propensities, were it not for the folly of them by way of drawback, would deserve something like commendation. Who would not tell a propitious dream on a Monday morning fasting, when by so trifling a precaution he might ensure its reality? But pleasure, power, every blessing that the human mind can desire or pant after may be acquired at a much easier rate than this; for if a star should twinkle while you look at it, which will always be the case if it be a fixed star, and there are but two chances to all the stars in the firmament against you at any given time, or if you look steadily at a pye-bald horse till you have formed a wish in your mind; your fortune is as infallibly made, as if you had read a lottery advertisement and implicitly followed its directions.

Some of these flattering hopes operate by sympathy, and in these the ladies are most concerned, particularly single ladies, who naturally and indeeed rationally indulge a wish to get married. If the nose itches the lady is to kiss a fool; which according to the interpretation of wags, means the intended husband. If the eye-brow, somebody is wishing for her; the intended again of course. If the knees, she is to kneel in a strange church, which is fairly coming to the point; and if any of these flattering symptoms should be followed up by an itching in the left hand, a large fortune may be expected with the husband, which extraordinary good-luck, however, must upon no account be averted by neglecting to rub the hand against white wood, and putting it very carefully to the bottom of the pocket.

Indeed the various modes of penetrating into futurity for the gratification of females in this particular are innumerable, and would certainly be ridiculous, were it not that nothing but want of gallantry could induce an inclination to curtail the pleasures, either in possession or expectation of the ladies. Bride-cake, drawn nine times through the ring, and placed under a lady's pillow*; the blade-bone of a rabbit perforated nine times with the most industrious needle in the lady's housewife, are both infallible receipts to dream of a sweetheart. A bunch containing exactly thirteen currants hanged behind the door, will with more than magnetic force charm him into the room. An apple paring swung three times round the head, aud thrown to a distance will infallibly mark out the initial letter of his name.

* A young lady to my knowledge put a piece of bride-cake, thus consecrated, under her pillow. Scarcely had she dropt into her first sleep, when something very soft and warm seemed to be passing over her shoulder. It startled her a good deal for a moment; but, taking a little necessary resolution, she presently discovered that it was a mouse. The fact was the mouse had smelled out the cake, and was making his way towards it. The circumstance struck on her mind very forcibly, and she instantly saw the truth of this tacit admonition. Nothing could be better than what she did. She brushed off the mouse as gently as possible; and by way of rewarding him for having represented to her the absurdity of her conduct, she very quietly took the bride-cake, and threw it him to eat, even at the risk of losing an ideal interview with her sweetheart; and, extolling herself for her resolution and good-sense, went to sleep for the remainder of the night, and dreamt of nothing but the happiness she enjoys under the protection of her father and mother.

I shall not go into the spell like mysteries of killing pigeons and sticking their hearts full of pins, while yet warm, that singular and awful charm the dumb cake, or any other revolting ceremony of this description, dictated as it should seem rather by despair than love, because the gentle nature of females would certainly, otherwise, hold them in abhorrence; but indeed to do my fair countrywomen every justice, these desperate remedies by what I can learn are never resorted to but upon the last extremity, and very rarely, even then but by forsaken old maids.

Antipathies are another very extraordinary proof of the fluctuation of fancy and imagination. There are many records of persons who have fainted away at the smell of roses, on purpose one should think partially to refute the doctrine of POPE. Apples have dreadfully disordered the olfactory nerves of others, rather it must be confessed an irreverend compliment to our first mother. Pork, eggs, eels, olive-oil, and many other things have been to others objects of abhorrence, but particularly cheese, a circumstance so universally prevalent that it is to this moment customary to ask at table whether any person has a dislike to it, a circumstance as we are told which induced a gentleman to move at a dinner where there were five and twenty persons, out of which number only one objected to cheese, that instead of taking away the cheese they ought to take away the man.

I was once witness to a most extraordinary instance of this strange operation of the mind. I made one of four passengers in a stage coach from LONDON to BIRMINGHAM. We had travelled all night, had breakfasted at OXFORD, and were to dine at STRATFORD UPON AVON. Having arrived there and seated ourselves in a parlour of that Inn where, some years afterwards, I saw all that bustle at the Jubilee which with every kind of stage exaggeration was but faintly given at Drury Lane Theatre, the usual dish, a boiled leg of mutton, was placed on the table. No sooner had one of the company made a large incision in it, prefacing the operation with the words "here's a leg of mutton, and a knife to cut un," which circumstance is of no merit here but that it is a literal fact, when another of them being close to the window got up and fairly jumped out of it. It was a parlour window, therefore, of course he did not hurt himself.

Very little enquiry was made into the cause of this freak and we had been eating heartily for some time, when the same person, impelled I suppose by hunger, pulled the door partly open and cried out for heaven's sake turn the leg of mutton. Being now assured of the fact, we informed him that he might come in without any violence to his prejudices, for that we had so mutilated the leg of mutton as to make it impossible to discover in which way it had been originally cut. But why should I point out things so self evident and so universally known from spiders and black beetles, which are such objects of dread and apprehension to the fine lady, and of such delight and admiration to the virtuoso, to the cat which animal has certainly an influence over the senses truly unaccountable. No man I believe has firmer nerves than myself, and I have never understood in what way these extraordinary affections are produced, and yet it is not four months since I experienced a most powerful instance of their effect.

I went to bed in perfect health and fell aleep. About an hour afterwards, I awoke in a kind of horror which I could not account for. I shook it off however and again got to sleep. I awoke more agitated. This extended to a third or fourth effort, the uneasiness each time encreasing. All this time I was however perfectly collected, no sensation going beyond a tormenting inquietude, for my mind was then, as I thank God it always is, the seat of happiness and content. The last time I awoke the sensation amounted nearly to fainting, to avoid which I jumped out of bed, when the first object I saw was a cat staring me full in the face. I came to myself in a moment, put the cat quietly out of the room, and went to sleep as fast as ever I did in my life. What I felt was of course occasioned by the smell of the animal. The aversion to it is, however, generally manifested by the sight of it, and it is notorious that men of the strongest minds have sunk under it. General MONCKTON, soon after his return from QUEBEC, where he had shewn so much heroism as a soldier and so much affection as a friend, as he was one evening knocking at his own door fainted away at seeing a cat upon the rails of the area.

If we go further into this we shall find that the greatest heroes of antiquity were led about like children by the declarations of oracles and the predictions of soothsayers. One thing however is very noticeable. They were told every thing in

doubtful and ambiguous language, and the more they consulted omens, the less they got at the literal truth. CRÆSUS being told by the oracle that he should lavish away a world of riches, fondly fancied that it meant the riches of CYRUS, but fatally discovered that he lived only to exhaust his own. A General being told he should die on the lap of his mother, thought the death an ignoble one and therefore kept as distant from home as possible with a view to avert it but being wounded in battle and laid on the earth, he had just recollection enough to discover before he breathed his last that the prediction was figuratively fulfilled. It is said that MARTINUS a painter was told by an astrologer that he should die when he came to GENEVA. He laughed at the prediction because nothing could be more easy than for him to determine never to go to that city. Reading, however, a geographical work, he had no sooner come to GENEVA than he was seized with a violent fever which carried him off.

While I am about it, I cannot resist an account of an alchymist, who, having endeavoured to attain the Philosopher's stone without hope, was determined to accomplish his project by consulting the devil. The devil told him to labour, which so delighted him, that he went on persevering in his illusion, till, having melted down all he possessed, his whole fortune at length had flown in fumo. He now began to be very angry with the devil; but a friend, to whom he told the story, assured him, that he had used the devil very ill; that he was a very good sort of a devil, and had given him very wholesome advice, the meaning of which he, from his coveteousness, had thought proper to mistake; for, by telling him to labour, he had only insinuated that he ought to lay aside alchymy, and all such fanciful and deceitful pursuits, and betake himself to some honest employment, and so augment his fortune by care and industry.

I might easily bring forward a most incredible number of predictions which, as MACBETH says, lied like truth. Those, however, I have adduced, will be very sufficient to shew that, in all ages and all countries, it has been the unquiet nature of mankind to disregard the blessings they possess, and grasp at shadows that elude their pursuit. The common well-known and admitted symptoms of the strange complaint I have described, were all I attempted to aim at; but, as those

elucidations offered in this letter, make only a part of a very numerous family with which the human mind for its own peace had better not be connected, I thought it incumbent on me to bring them forward in their most forbidding aspect, particularly as a cure in the first stage of the disorder, is not only adviseable but absolutely necessary; for when the contagion once spreads, there is no saying where it will stop, especially, if it should catch hold of the nervous system, and create all those imaginary miseries that constantly attend upon it.

How lamentable must it be to see young ladies transformed into tea pots, candlesticks, and goose-pies? How shocking to reflect on the torment inflicted by an apprehension, that they shall be starved to death, because their mouths are too small to admit any nutriment; or the dread of being eternally imprisoned in bed-chambers, because their noses are so large as to prevent them from getting out of the door. All this being known and acknowledged, let us not, for heaven's sake, ridiculously fatigue our minds, by seeking after imaginary misfortunes; but muster up what little portion of fortitude we have to bear real ones, to effect which, let us see what steps are necessary.

As this disease appears to be completely unconnected with reason and common sense, as it begins with credulity and goes on to something worse than superstition, it may not be amiss, in order to accomplish its cure, if we were to rouse a little right pride, and avert the operation of the spell in which we have inconsiderately bound ourselves, by reading it backward. This operation requires nothing more than a small portion of resolution, mixed with some scruples of reflection, and a few grains of self-importance. Look at the words of the spell:

'I was designed by nature to perform all the duties and enjoy all the comforts 'of a rational being; but custom, caprice, and fashion, having in spight of my 'best reflections, introduced into my composition an obstinate, impulsive, and 'poisonous faculty, I yield to its resistless power, and swear to reject reason, to 'discredit my senses, to abjure prudence, to laugh at persuasion, to give the lie 'to my own understanding, to disbelieve my own eyes, and so to deliver myself 'over to the possession of imagination, as to be most firmly and solemnly con'vinced, that every pye-bald horse has the gift of prophecy, that two and two 'make five, that the most convenient way of coming into a house is down the

'chimney, and other things of the same rational and self-evident nature; to the 'end that I may become a perfect dreamer, laughed at by some, pitied by others, 'and despised by myself.'

This picture is degrading and deplorable. See how it would look if it were reversed. "Having been long despised by myself, laughed at by some, pitied by "others, having become a perfect dreamer; having most ridiculously fancied "that the best way of coming into a house is down the chimney, and that two "and two make five, that every pye-bald horse has the gift of prophecy; having "so delivered myself over to the possession of imagination to disbelieve my own "eyes, to give the lie to my own understanding, to laugh at persuasion, to abjure "prudence, to discredit my senses, and to reject reason; I now most fervently "pray to be relieved from this absurd and degrading infatuation; to the end "that, being again recovered from the miserable state of mind in which I have "been entranced, I may henceforth be contented with plain truth, fair reason "and common sense, and entertain that thankfulness and gratitude that consti- "tute the pleasures and advantages of a rational being, the duties and comforts "of which superior creature nature fitted and designed me to fulfil and enjoy."

Your's, my dear Sir,

Leicester-Place, very sincerely,

Dec. 28, 1801. C. DIBDIN.

LETTER LI.

ESSEX.

JOHN SHELDON, Esq.

MY DEAR SIR,

I am now prepared to enter on the particulars of my tour in 1800, which took up my time from the thirteenth of April to the eighth of September, during which space I was scarcely unemployed a single hour except while I slept, and, indeed, I might almost say I was employed then; for, as sleep strengthens reflection by renovating nature so recollection is confirmed and improved by its serving to digest ideas as well as food, at least it had this effect upon me; to what purpose those who have the solicitude to desire a perusal of those observations which were the result of my researches will form a competent, and, I am sure, an indulgent judgement.

On Easter Sunday, April the thirteenth, I left Leicester Place and bent my course towards Chelmsford, where I arrived in the afternoon and found the inhabitants keeping this rustic holiday in their newest array; for I have already described in my letter on Omens the propriety of wearing something new on an Easter Sunday. Quoites however and other sports were more tolerated on this particular day than usual; for, as the church had tumbled down a few weeks before, their public duty had of necessity been dispensed with, and that they might not want an excuse at the nearest place of worship, which was Writtle, a village

about two miles I believe from CHELMSFORD, the church had shared the fate of its neighbour.

At the time I am speaking of, both churches therefore lay in ruins, and the account I received of these accidents was curious enough. The falling in of the church at CHELMSFORD was occasioned by working a vault which was performed so injudiciously as to undermine the main support. This happened in some measure from either ignorance or negligence in not obtaining a proper survey of the building. Had that precaution been taken, they would have found that the materials were incongruous, part of the structure having been erected at the time of King STEPHEN and part the latter end of the sixteenth century, and therefore, as it might have been expected, the ancient, which was the body, broke away from the more modern, which was the tower, and all those parts which are annexed to it.

At WRITTLE the accident happened in consequence of conduct as ignorant as that of CHELMSFORD. It had been perceived that the steeple was in a dangerous situation : It was therefore thought expedient to shore it up, which being done, a foundation was dug the better to secure the edifice for the future ; but, forgetting that this operation would weaken the foundation for the shores, every thing gave way, and down came the tower, and thus CHELMSFORD and WRITTLE had only a church between them. Both accidents happened from want of judgment, one by supporting a superstructure, and the other by undermining a foundation. It is a miraculous circumstance that no lives were lost at either place. I did not see the church at WRITTLE, but I examined that at CHELMSFORD very closely, and among other things I observed that one of the walls had been preserved in a most extraordinary manner by a bressimur, which falliug in an oblique direction, became completely a shore.

As of all the counties in ENGLAND there is none in which antiquaries have taken more pains to trace out the Roman ways and ascertain other particulars relative to its predominance anciently over the neighbouring counties than ESSEX, I might have been tempted perhaps to follow them into such sort of enquiries did not the same source from whence I get this intelligence furnish me with infor-

mation that these very enlightened gentlemen have completely left the question in the dark. I shall therefore content myself in my usual manner, with saying, that this large and populous county is bounded on the south by the river Thames, which separates it from KENT; on the west by HERTFORDSHIRE and MIDDLESEX; on the north by CAMBRIDGESHIRE and SUFFOLK; and, on the east by the German Ocean; that it is forty-seven miles in length from east to west, forty-three from north to south, and a hundred and fifty in circumference, that it is divided into twenty hundreds, contains twenty-four market towns, but no city, that it has four-hundred and fifteen parishes, and sends eight members to parliament.

The rivers in ESSEX besides the Thames, which washes its southern borders, are the Stour, the Lea, the Stort, the Colne, the Chelmar, and the Black Water. The Stour rises in the north-west part of ESSEX, runs south-west, and separating the county from SUFFOLK, falls into the German Ocean at HARWICH. The Lea rises also in the north-west, and running almost directly south, separates ESSEX from HERTFORD and MIDDLESEX, and falls into the Thames at BLACKWALL. The Colne rises near the source of the Stour and the Lea; and, reaching HALSTED on the south-east, runs parallel with the Stour, and passes by COLCHESTER, where forming an angle, it takes a course south-south-east, and falls into the German Ocean. The Chelmer rises like the rest in the north-east, and passes to CHELMSFORD, whence it turns directly east, receives the Black Water, and falls into the German Ocean near MALDEN. The Black Water rises near the source of the Chelmer, to which river it runs parallel, and at length is lost in it near MALDEN.

There are mineral waters at UPMINSTER, at WHITHAM, and at TILBURY, and there is a petrifying spring between BEACONHILL and HARWICH. As for any further general intelligence concerning ESSEX, every body knows that it is celebrated for saffron, eryngo, wild-fowl, oysters, and calves. The air has been long considered, especially on that side bordering on the sea and the Thames, as aguish and unwholesome. The fens and marshes must certainly produce noisome and pernicious vapours, and all these circumstances have given rise to a variety of reports to the disadvantage of ESSEX. Among the rest it has been said that the farmers in those fens drive a kind of trade in wives, by going into the inland

parts to marry, and then bringing them home to the marshes, where the change of air speedily puts a period to their lives, and that some have boasted by this means of having obtained several successive fortunes. If farmers have no more conscience and feeling in matrimonial traffic than in their dealings at market, I should not wonder if the fact virtually existed. By what I can understand, however, so much spirit has been exerted within the last eighteen years to drain, cleanse, and purify those swamps, that the farmers are now tricked in their bargain, and wives thrive as well in the hundreds of ROCHFORD and DENGY as in any other part of ESSEX.

In consequence of these improvements, the marshes, thus treated, are become the most profitable part of the county. It was always remarked that the soil of ESSEX was best where the air was worst, and now that the air which embraces that very soil is purified and cleansed, it is natural to suppose that its value must be materially increased. In short it had a bad character which it has now pretty well retrieved; and too much praise cannot be bestowed on those who have placed it in a condition to vie in plenty, and consequently riches with the neighbouring counties.

As to particulars relative to different towns in this county, they have little to attract the attention of remote readers, and those in the capital know them by heart; and therefore, as more important matter awaits me, it will be in every way best to say what little may be necessary in as brief a manner as possible. About LOW-LAYTON, WALTHAMSTOW, and WANSTEAD, and, indeed every where near LONDON, there are a great number of gentlemen's seats. EPPING-FOREST, which was anciently termed the forest of ESSEX, is handsome and of large extent. It is a royal chase. There are many dairies near it, and the town itself is famous as every knows, for butter.

SAFFRON-WALDEN, so called from the prodigious quantities of saffron cultivated there, of which I shall presently give an account, is seated near the borders of CAMBRIDGESHIRE. There is nothing in it more remarkable than in any other common town. DUNMOW, known by its priory, and its flitch of bacon charter, is

pleasantly seated on a gravelly hill, which seems to be the original meaning of its name. The custom of receiving the bacon was instituted by ROBERT, Earl of CLARE, and the conditions are that he that does not repent of his marriage, either sleeping or waking, in a year and a day, nor has had any difference with his wife, nor has made any nuptial transgession within that time, and will take his oath of the same before the prior and the whole town, shall have a gammon of bacon, some accounts say a flitch, delivered to him with great solemnity. There are some names upon record of those who have received this bacon, but I hope I shall not be accused of impeaching the conjugal fidelity of the present day, if the truth of a historian obliges me to notice that none of the dates are within this, or indeed the last century.

RUMFORD, known by every body as a standing jest, is a strange dirty place, and would boast little notoriety but for its situation in the high road to NORWICH, for the left-handed wit sported at its expence, the famous structure near it called GIDDY-HALL, and HORNCHURCH in its vicinity, called so from a pair of horns fastened to it, but distinguished originally under the title of WHORECHURCH, having been built by a penitent prostitute. TILBURY and its fort are so well known that it would only be a waste of time to describe them here. From EAST TILBURY a road leads to BILLERICAY, and near HORNDON from a very high hill is a beautiful and extensive prospect. I remember having seen it some years ago; had I passed that way upon this occasion, I certainly should have introduced it into this work.

CHELMSFORD, standing nearly in the centre of the county, and being a great thoroughfare to all parts of SUFFOLK and NORFOLK, is of course very much resorted to, especially also, as the assizes, elections, and other public meetings are held there. It seems to contain a hearty sociable set of inhabitants, and constant bustle and business give it an air of cheerfulness and content. MALDEN, supposed to be the ancient CAMELODUSUM, where BOADICEA suffered so much dissolute indignity, and in return destroyed seventy-thousand of the Roman army, is well situated for trade. It is a liberty within itself and has a convenient harbour. It consists of one street nearly a mile in length. It is rather an unwholesome situa-

tion. The custom of Borough English, exactly as it operates at STAFFORD, is established at this place*.

COLCHESTER must have been a place of considerable consequence, much of which however it has long lost, only six out of sixteen parish churches remaining at this time in any preservation, and indeed by what I witnessed some years ago, as well as by what I can now learn, there is scarcely a trait of spirit to be discerned there though it is remarkably well calculated for business, having three bridges over the river Coln, which is navigable to WIVENHOE, at the distance of about three miles, where there is a Custom-House, and a little farther there is a bay capable of containing a large navy. There is however a manufacture of bays and says. It is also famous for eringo and as every body knows for oysters.

MERSEY is a small island formed, partly by the sea, partly by the Coln and Blackwater, and partly by a stream that runs from one river to another. It is an unwholesome situation and so is ST. OSYTH. HARWICH is famous for being the station of the packet boats between ENGLAND and HOLLAND. It takes its name from the Saxon word HAERWIC, which signifies a harbour capable of containing a navy, and it answers so well to this description that a hundred sail of men of war have been seen in it at a time, besides three or four hundred sail of colliers and merchantmen. The mouth of the harbour is at high water almost three miles wide but the channel, by which alone ships can enter it, is deep and narrow and lies on the SUFFOLK side; therefore, as a mark of direction, they pass by LANDGUARD FORT, which is built on a point of land so encompassed by the sea at high water that it seems an Island lying about a mile from the shore.

Except saffron and eringo, the plants in ESSEX are not found in greater perfection than in other counties. These, however are entitled to particular notice. Saffron, *crocus savitus verus autumnalis.* Nothing is better known than the crocus.

* It is proper I should here notice that this custom arose from the tyranny of the feudal lords, who arrogated a right to lie with every bride on her marriage night. A doubt therefore arising as to the probability of the first child's legitimacy, it was excluded from inherence, and the youngest chosen to that priveledge as being the most distant from suspicion.

This plant is a species of it and the variety of the several species of the crocus produced in the gardens of the curious by raising them from well chosen seeds is almost incredible. This sort is distinguished from all the rest by the following circumstances. The tube of the flower is very long, arising immediately from the bulb without any footstalk, and at the top it is divided into six oval obtuse segments which are equal and of a purplish blue colour. In the bottom of the tube is situated a round germin supporting a slender style which is not more than half the length of the petal, crowned with three oblong golden stigmas, which are the saffron.

This plant flowers in October and the leaves keep growing all the winter but it produces no seeds here. Dr. Douglas has given a valuable account of the culture and management of this plant in that tract of land that lies between Saffron Walden and part of Cambridgeshire, in a circle of about ten miles diameter, which account however it will be the less necessary for me to follow because saffron and all its qualities are so well known. The produce of this plant is so great, that, though the quantity of saffron yielded by a single flower consist of three very minute leaves, yet an acre of ground will produce eighty or a hundred weight of wet saffron ; but this quantity will when dry weigh no more than about twenty, pounds, which will yet be found an immense quantity when the price of it is considered. The best saffron in Europe is that of England and may be distinguished from the sorts brought from abroad by its larger blades. Spanish saffron is good for nothing because of the oil mixed with it by the Spaniards to make it keep. Indian saffron is what we call turmeric.

Eringo I have already described ; so I have the sea orrache, the little hare's ear, and dittander. Marsh thread, *conserva palustris,* millet cypress grass, *cyperus gramineus,* mountain cut grass, *erica maritima supina,* musk orchis, *orchis adorata,* the almond leaved willow, *salix folio amygdalino,* the great rough violet without scent, *viola martia hirsata,* and the small leaved lime or linden tree are all found in Essex.

As for celebrated men, Sir Thomas Roe, a very able statesman and ambassador to several Foreign Courts was born at Low Leighton. Sir Thomas Smith, a learned

writer and secretary to EDWARD the Sixth, who was stript of his employments by MARY, restored to them by ELIZABETH, and who rendered himself celebrated by his treatise of The Commonwealth of ENGLAND, was a native of SAFFRON WALDEN. At ABBOT'S RODING was born THURLOE, Secretary of State to CROMWELL, whom he served, as well as his son, with great fidelity and defeated, as it is said, several designs against the life of the former. He was concerned, however, in the restoration; and, though strictly examined by the Parliament, and even accused of high treason, no criminal charge could be made out against him.

Sir WALTER MILDMAY, chancellor and under-treasurer of the exchequer, was born at CHELMSFORD; he is principally known by having founded EMANUEL COLLEGE, at CAMBRIDGE. RICHARD DE BADEW, the original founder of CLARE-HALL, in CAMBRIDGE, was descended of an honourable family at GREAT BADEW, or BADDOW, near CHELMSFORD. GILBERT, a very learned physician, who seems however to have derived his best celebrity, from having invented an instrument to find out the latitude of any place without the assistance of the sun, moon, and stars, was a native of COLCHESTER; so was Dr. HARSNET, a learned writer in the seventeenth century, and successively bishop of CHICHESTER and NORWICH. He is best known by a sermon he published against predestination. BOURCHIER, archbishop of CANTERBURY, who arose to be chancellor of ENGLAND, but who is better remembered for having been principally instrumental in the introduction of printing, for he was the first who suggested the idea of sending CAXTON to HAERLEM, where he made himself master of the art, was born at HAWSTEAD.

AUDLEY, a very necessary instrument in the projects of HENRY the Eighth, who was speaker of the house of that parliament, which confirmed the divorce of the king from CATHERINE of ARRAGON and his marriage with ANNE BOLEYN, who was afterwards lord-chancellor, and sat in judgement on his predecessor, chancellor MORE, who was condemned to death for refusing to acknowledge the king's supremacy, who presided at the trials of Bishop FISHER, ANNE BOLEYN, the marquis of EXETER, and several other eminent persons, was descended from an ancient and honourable family in this county. Sir ANTHONY COOKE, a man said to have been equally skilful in the languages, philology, poetry, history, and mathematics;

VERE, Baron of TILBURY, and youngest brother of the famous General VERE, being also a celebrated general himself, and the first peer created by CHARLES the Second; and BEDALL, a firm prelate, who served the cause of the church and the king in the Irish rebellion, and ran every personal risk to quell the influence of the Roman Catholics, were all born in ESSEX.

QUARLES, a man of various fortune, and known by numerous pious and moral works, was born near RUMFORD; BASTWICKE, a writer rendered remarkable by the implacable fury of his persecutors, who was sentenced with BURTON and PRYNNE to stand in the pillory and lose his ears, which sentence was however not carried into execution on account of the meeting of the long parliament, was a native of WRITTLE; GRIMSTON, a famous lawyer, and master of the rolls in the seventeenth century, was descended from an ancient and honourable family near MANNINGTREE. He lived to be ninety. MEDE, one of the most learned divines of the seventeenth century, and who among other things, wrote a commentary on the Revelations, was born at BERDEN. GAUDEN, successively bishop of EXETER and WORCESTER, who wrote several sermons and controversial pieces, was a native of MAYLAND; KAY, a true christian philosopher, and an ingenious writer, who became a fellow of the royal society, and who left behind him many ingenious works, was the son of a blacksmith, and born at BLACK NOTLEY. CAWTON, a learned minister among the non-conformists, was a native of WIVENHOE. He published a Syriac Version of the New Testament, and an Essay on the usefulness of the Hebrew language in the study of philosophy. Sir WILLIAM DAWES, archbishop of YORK, in the eighteenth century, who wrote some valuable works, was born near BRAINTREE. Very few of these are of the first celebrity, but all authors have concurred in giving them a place in English biography.

Your's, my dear Sir,

Leicester-Place. with the most perfect friendship,

Dec. 30, 1801. C. DIBDIN.

ESSEX.

	Braintree	Brentwood	Chelmsford	Colchester	Dunmow	Epping	Harwich	Ingatestone	Malden	Ongar	Rumford	Walden	Witham	London
Tues. Billericay to	20	5	9	30	22	13	59	5	15	13	11	35	18	22
Wed. Braintree to		22	11	15	8	26	35	17	13	23	28	21	7	39
Brentwood to			11	31	18	7	53	5	22	8	6	26	20	17
Frid. Chelmsford to				21	13	17	41	6	10	10	17	26	9	28
* † Sat. Colchester to					24	41	20	27	17	15	38	50	10	50
Sat. Dunmow to						20	45	17	22	15	24	13	15	37
Frid. Epping to							58	11	29	6	10	16	26	16
* † Tues. Harwich to								47	38	51	59	67	30	71
Ingatestone to									15	12	11	32	15	21
† Sat. Malden to										20	26	34	6	37
Ongar to											14	31	19	19
Tu. & W. Rumford to												43	26	11
Sat. Walden to													28	42
Witham to														37

A table of distances in ESSEX. Corporation Towns, governed by a Mayor and Aldermen, are distinguished thus *; boroughs thus †; the market towns have the initials of the days placed against them.

LETTER LII.

SUFFOLK.

JOHN SHELDON, Esq.

MY DEAR SIR,

I SHALL now take up SUFFOLK where I left it off. IPSWICH from a place of considerable consequence has gradually declined to that sort of dull uninteresting town, that has been in great measure deserted by manufacture and commerce. IPSWICH is a town of great antiquity, and we are therefore told a great deal of a rampart, a ditch, and a Danish invasion, and that there was formerly a castle, of which now there is not a single trace, and they never forget a circumstance which they consider as highly honorable to the place, which is that Cardinal WOLSEY, who was born there and whose father was a butcher, built the very shambles which adorn the market-place at this hour.

This town covers a large tract of ground, and by standing under the hills which not only shelter it from inclement weather, but supply it with springs of excellent water, it boasts a large portion of comfort and convenience. The corporation though not governed by a mayor has considerable privileges, such as the passing of fines and recoveries, trying both civil and criminal causes, and even holding pleas of the crown. The assize of wine, bread and beer, which seems to be an exclusive privilege, and if not abused certainly an admirable one. The French police

laws, five and twenty years ago extended this to meat, and its operation was greatly conducive to general convenience. This corporation has also an admiralty jurisdiction, and becomes entitled to all wafes, strays, and goods cast on shore within their district, which includes all the coast of SUFFOLK, and extends on the ESSEX coast beyond HARWICH.

The trade of this town formerly consisted in great measure of broad-cloth and other woollens, and at that time several of the towns and villages in the neighbourhood were employed in it, and from this trade many of the best fortunes in this county were realized. Malting, however, within these fifty years has been almost its exclusive employment, in which it does a great deal of business. IPSWICH, however, cannot be much more than a mere vestige of what it has been, and though it is occasionally full of bustle and feels the influence of those fortunes which are expended there and in its vicinity, no new ones can now be acquired there. It has however the advantages of all that beauty and that plenty which surround it. Nothing can be more charming than the different effects on the Orwell, exceeded only by the Dart in DEVONSHIRE. Churches, gentlemens' seats, woods, noble avenues, parks, with the deer feeding on fine velvet lawns, are so happily disposed and so ingeniously diversified, that art and nature seem to have concerted every thing that can give elegant effect. Art has perhaps too much taken the lead, and therefore I prefer the Dart, which the Orwell certainly in some degree resembles, for in entering Orwell Haven from IPSWICH, the scene terminates with a view of HARWICH, and the high land of ESSEX, and on the left with LANDGUARD-FORT, and the high coast of WALTON, and FELIXSTOW cliffs beyond it, with a prospect of the ocean before you. This is in effect something like the entrance into DARTMOUTH harbour, but the scene for sublimity must be guided by the proportion of high land in DEVONSHIRE, and high land in ESSEX.

WOODBRIGE consisting of one long regular street, and remarkable for the same plainness and uniformity in the persons and manners of the inhabitants, as if the faces, coats, and houses, were all formed upon the same model, is conveniently seated for trade both by land and water. It trades to LONDON and NEWCASTLE in

in butter, cheese, and plank, and WOODBRIDGE hogs go to LONDON every week but its most remarkable trait is refining salt by which large properties have been made in this town. ORFORD is situated about ten miles to the east of WOODBRIDGE. It derives its name from a ford over the river ore near the mouth of which it stands. An ancient castle yet remains in ruins. I could learn no probable account of it. ORFORD had formerly a good harbour, but the sea seems to have withdrawn itself for many years and therefore it has so long ceased to be a place of commerce. Near to the town on a promontory called ORFORDNESS is a lighthouse for the direction of seamen sailing near the coast and this promontory is a good shelter for ships when a north east wind blows hard upon the shore*.

It has been remarked year after year that at the latter end of summer incredible numbers of swallows assemble on this coast and wait for a northerly wind to transport them to some warmer climate†. That they wait for this particular wind has been ascertained, for they have been found wind bound for many days together. The moment the wind became fair they all disappeared at once and it has been as regularly observed that they reappear on this coast in the same shoals about the latter end of April or the beginning of May. Five miles to the north east of ORFORD is ALDBOROUGH called so from the river Ald which runs near the south end of it. In a voyage once from HULL I remember laying off ALDBOROUGH at anchor where I had a perfect view of this charming coast so tremendous to mariners and so profitable to smugglers. We purchased at that time some fish of the fishermen who came along side of us which we brought as presents to our friends in town. The soles caught off this town are remarkably fine.

* I have read in two or three accounts of a kind of fish that, in the reign of HENRY the first, was caught in a net near ORFORDNESS, resembling a human being in shape, but it was rough and hairy. It is said to have been brought alive on shore but it escaped to sea and was never more heard of.

† Though it seems to be little my business to go into any such matter as the migration of birds; yet, as the natures of some sorts partake of this quality and as swallows in particular have given occasion to a variety of conjectures and enquiries upon this head, it may not be amiss to say something here on the subject, which relates to the quail, the stork, the crane, the fieldfare, the woodcock, the nightingale, and some other birds as well as to the swallow. It is a curious

SAXMUNDHAM a small and poor town lies between IPSWICH and YARMOUTH; and DUNWICH, which was a very ancient city, and a considerable sea-port, but long since reduced to a very inconsiderable place by the encroachments of the sea is seven miles from SAXMUNDHAM. Many devastations of this description have happened on this coast which being entirely unfurnished with rocks, the surge as in the case of DUNWICH by beating against the foundations of precipices can easily undermine it. The way this town was by this means lost as it were piece-meal, has been very curiously, and I have no doubt accurately related by different authors. It is impossible, however, for me to follow them here. It is sufficient to reflect on the instability of human grandeur by noticing that the process took

question in natural history, and furnishes a wonderful instance of that instinct which is impressed of those animals by the Creator. I think, however, the question, how they know when to come and to go, and to what places to direct their flight, in which enquiries they are called untaught unthinking creatures, and poor foolish birds, savour rather of ignorance, want of thought, and folly in ourselves. There appears to be more good sense, since we know that birds emigrate, and indeed as every day's experience shews us how much less in all their operations, they do in vain upon a comparison with human creatures, in admiring the order and polity with which upon these occasions they conduct themselves, in observing with what regularity they fly in troops, and unerringly steer their course through vast unknown regions unassisted, which cannot be said of us, by a compass, all which is performed by a fixed and correct observance of the laws of nature, by which they are not only taught where to go, but are furnished and accommodated in a most astonishing manner by the structure and formation of their parts for long flights.

Reasoners are however never wanting to subvert all the ordinations of nature; and, as subtility will ever be a stronger vehicle to convey ingenuity for the amusement of mankind, than plain sense for their conviction, all these admirable and one should think self-evident proofs of this most wonderful fact, which no less challenge our admiration than it satisfies our understandings and overcomes our scruples, are attempted to be refuted by weak supposition, vague conjecture, and partial appearance. It has been insisted upon that there have been many inssances of the submersion of swallows, and that they have been found in the trunks of trees and other sheltering places. The prodigious number of ingenious and suppositous reasons which have been adduced to maintain this argument are of too great length to examine here, otherwise there can be no doubt but they might be easily refuted. It will serve my purpose, perhaps, to content myself with noticing that all other migrating birds are allowed to leave this country occasionally, except swallows, though at the same time nobody denies that swallows are the best in the world calculated for migration, and after all, as they are obliged to confess, that only one sort of swallows have been found in a state of submersion or torpidity, there can be but very little doubt that such as have been found in the winter in any state were left behind and incapable from the slender number they composed as a body, of undertaking a flight, so abandoned, in which case it will be nothing more than the story of the seven sailors, who were accidentally left behind on a GREENLAND voyage, and who to the astonishment of their friends in the following year were found alive at SPITZBERGEN.

about sixty years to demolish it, and that during that time at one period a church was engulphed, at another a lane, then a street, then the market-place, then another church, then the jail, afterwards an aqueduct, and so on till nothing was left but that poor fragment of a town which still remains, and which stood out of the reach of the merciless waves.

HALESWORTH is a tolerably well built town, situated on the borders of the river Blith. It is an ancient and rather a populous place, but were it not for the market, to which considerable quantities of linen cloth are brought, it seems to me, as if it would have but little business to do. LOWESTOFF is a busy town and pretty well built. The ness or promontary below the north end of the town, is said to be now the most eastern point of land in GREAT-BRITAIN. The chief employment at this town is fishing, particularly the north sea cod, herrings, mackarels and sprats. It has lately in some degree been considered as a watering-place, and has therefore become a posting town, which circumstances of course have rendered it proportionably populous. BECCLES is a large place. It is seated on the river Waveney, which is navigable beyond the town. It has been I believe more celebrated than it ever will be. BUNGAY is also situated on the Waveney, which is navigable for barges from thence to YARMOUTH. It makes one in that catalogue of towns that have renovated from fire. The inhabitants of BUNGAY as well as those of BECCLES have prodigious right of common.

DEBENHAM is a clean town standing on a hill. The difficulty of getting to it is however not easily surmounted, for the roads are abominable. STOWMARKET has nothing very remarkable in itself, but I remember particularly well that the country around it is extremely beautiful in every possible way, and that beauty encreases as the traveller approaches BURY, at which place I shall take my leave after I have said a few words on SUDBURY, which town stands upon the Stour. It has been and still continues to be in some degree a good manufacturing town. Their employ is working up the wool from the sheep's back to the weaving it into says and druggets. The country about SUDBURY is very beautiful, and the retrospective effect of it in the way towards BURY pleased me so much that I took a view of it, which will hereafter be introduced. It is completely a common

English landscape, and therefore will serve to set off objects of a more majestic kind, which I attempted to delineate in CUMBERLAND and SCOTLAND.

The danger of bestowing a partial attention on any particular county, especially any such as is universally known, obliges me now to come to BURY, from whence I entered CAMBRIDGESHIRE by the way of NEWMARKET, or rather at that place, part of it standing in each county. BURY which has been called the MONTPELIER of ENGLAND certainly is a most charming place. It has all the advantages of rich and luxurious enclosures on the south and south-west, and of most extensive and variegated open space, which with little interruption reach almost to LYNN on the north and north-west, and at the same time the country on the east has the best advantages of both these picturesque effects.

The town is pretty uniform, and upon the whole very handsome, and the resort of people of rank, independant gentlemen, rich farmers, and others, gives it always an air of bustle and business. Its approximation to NEWMARKET also, and the great advantages it affords to hunting and all country amusements, contribute largely to induce the visits of strangers to the various and splendid seats of their relatives and friends. Indeed, I scarcely know of any place that wears more an air of both opulence and munificence than BURY.

The churches and other public buildings at this place have nothing in their character of history materially curious, but it is impossible to omit some notice of the abbey, which we took pains to survey. It was once a most extensive and no doubt a magnificent structure. Some fragments of ruins, however, but serve to point out that such a place once had existence. Our guide, the gardener, a poor illiterate creature, gave us every information in his power, and pointed out in what manner the building had been constructed from the kitchen to the *refractory* as he called it. Having for many years gone over the ground like a mill-horse, and repeated particulars relative to it like a parrot, he had taken it into his head to make a plan of the place with a view to produce a publication by subscription with plates. For this purpose he had collected materials from DUGDALE, SPEED, BEDE, and many others, and he told me he was in expec-

tation of receiving such assistance from some learned members of the colleges at CAMBRIDGE, that it was impossible to fail of making a fortune by his production. It is evident that the Cantabs are trifling with this unlettered historian, and playing with his credulity, for backed with their praise he seems fully satisfied that he shall eclipse even BAKER himself. I asked him when he intended to go to press, and he answered with perfect simplicity, as soon as he had digested a sufficient number of reports as to what the place was before the establishment of christianity in BRITAIN.

I do not find a single plant of any description peculiar to SUFFOLK. There are many that are rather uncommon, but they are all to be fonnd in other counties. That southernwood which is a mugwort I have already described, so I have yellow-berried holly, and Spanish catch-fly. Of the water aloe, the small stone-crop, and the upright speedwell I have likewise spoken. Among those plants which I have not yet noticed are the woolly thistle, *onopordum,* of which LINNEUS enumerates four species. Bastard parsley, *caucalis,* which is a plant neither handsome nor useful; that sort which grows in SUFFOLK has a small purple flower. Golden-flowered samphire, *crithmum crysanthemum.* This plant is a species of the *Inula,* and nearly related to *elecampane,* a thing used by fond mothers to stuff their childrens' stomachs, and obstruct respiration by way of curing a cold. Night flowering campion, *lychnis noctiflora.* This is only a variety of this multitudinous genus, which has no other distinction than that expressed by its name. English sea-pease, *pisum marinum*; this is merely a vetch. These, the long-leaved water-hemlock, three sorts of trefoil, and the common Roman nettle finish the account of plants in SUFFOLK.

Of men distinguished in any remarkable way in SUFFOLK, I shall begin with WOLSEY, who as all the world knows from a low origin raised himself by a strong mind, a clear head, and a steady perseverance to the highest offices in church and state. His introduction to the court of HENRY the Seventh, his intimacy with Bishop FOX, on whose shoulders he rode into the presence of HENRY the Eighth, and whom afterwards he supplanted the means by which he rose first to be the king's chief favourite, and afterwards his sole and absolute minister, his various and

and eminent titles, his train which consisted of eight-hundred servants, his palaces of HAMPTON-COURT and YORK-PLACE, now WHITEHALL, in short the dazzling eminence on which he stood, and from which he was in one moment so indignantly hurled, are all so well known, that it is entirely unnecessary to dwell longer here on this man of unbounded stomach, as SHAKESPEAR calls him, who perhaps exhibited the most extraordinary instance of cunning, insolence, and inordinate pride this or any other country ever saw.

RICHARD AUNGERVILLE, commonly known by the name of RICHARD DE BURY, was a native of that town. He was a man of great and deserved celebrity. He went through many high spiritual and temporal situations in the reign of EDWARD the Third, and at length arrived to the dignity of Lord High Chancellor and Treasurer of ENGLAND; but the quality for which his memory will be longest cherished, was his learning and his charity. By the first he was enabled to patronize genius, to exalt himself as a literary character, and, in particular, through his communication and correspondence with eminent foreigners, PETRARCH one of them; and by the latter, he gave abundant proof that he applied his superior talents to the best of all purposes, plainly shewing that the most brilliant gifts of nature are only valuable in proportion as they extend their influence to promote the happiness of mankind.

GARDINER, the celebrated bishop, a character completely opposite to RICHARD DE BURY, was born however at the same place. He is supposed to have been a natural son of RICHARD WOODVILL, brother to ELIZABETH, whose marriage caused EDWARD the Fourth to break with WARWICK, and all the terrible consequences of that disunion. GARDINER was a busy body, and being brought up under the auspices of WOLSEY, no wonder if he made the best of his talents, if exercising them unworthily may be so called. Under WOLSEY, however, the business was not to be nice, and indeed in the divorce of HENRY the Eighth from CATHARINE, and other active operations, he became a perfect scape-goat, and very quietly took all the qualms. The consequence of such conduct as might be easily apprehended was his abetting MARY in her popish cruelties, as warmly as he had extolled HENRY for his struggles in favour of protestantism, and those converts

he assisted in destroying to oblige one, he lent a helping hand to re-establish in compliment to the other, abjuring the Pope's supremacy in one reign, and becoming in the next the most truckling and obsequious of all his vassals.

CLAGGET, a learned and eminent divine in the seventeenth century, was also a native of BURY. His sermons were celebrated, and he left a great number of theological tracts. BOYSE, a divine of great reputation, and one of the translators of the Bible in the reign of JAMES the First, was born at NETTLESTED. EYRE, that Lord Mayor of LONDON who built LEADENHALL-MARKET was a native of BRANDON. JOHN DE METTINGHAM was a native of SUFFOLK. He was one of the judges in the reign of EDWARD the Third, and it is remarkable that except him and ELIAS DE BECKINGHAM, all the whole bench of judges were in one year fined and displaced for corrupt practices. This conduct had a wholesome operation, for two years afterwards a writ was directed to METTINGHAM, and the other judges who had succeeded to the situations of the corrupt ones, to limit for the sake of morality and the good of the community the number of apprentices and attornies. I know not how it was decided as to apprentices, but the number of attornies considered to be sufficient for the whole kingdom were settled at a hundred and forty*. The celebrated mathematician WHISTON, who together with DITTON, SWIFT has buried in a jakes, was born at KESLAM. CAVENDISH, famous for his discoveries and exploits in a voyage round the world, and THEOBALD, Archbishop of CANTERBURY, who fell a sacrifice to WAT TYLER's mob, and whose head is yet to be seen in St. GREGORY's Church at SUDBURY, as I am informed, were both natives of SUFFOLK; and to these I shall only add the name of Bishop BALE, who was celebrated for his merits and his misfortunes, and for his work called "Lives of the most eminent writers of GREAT-BRITAIN."

Your's, my dear Sir,

Leicester-Place, very sincerely,

Dec. 28, 1801. C. DIBDIN.

* I believe at the time of CROMWELL, a stretch of about three-hundred years since the eighteenth of EDWARD, they were settled at fifteen-hundred. This is only a hundred and sixty years ago, and now I am informed, though I scarcely know how to credit the intelligence, that there are upwards of thirty-thousand.

SUFFOLK.

	Beccles	Brandon	Bungay	Bury	Framlingham	Halesworth	Ipswich	Lowestoff	Orford	Southwold	Stowmarket	Sudbury	Woodbridge	London
† W. & S. Aldborough to	34	64	29	39	24	21	25	34	10	21	37	45	17	93
Sat. Beccles to		49	6	45	27	14	39	8	40	16	39	59	28	109
Frid. Brandon to			43	23	52	55	48	57	67	69	36	46	56	78
Th. Bungay to				39	22	8	37	14	38	22	33	57	30	106
† Wed. Bury to					31	44	26	58	45	57	14	17	33	70
Sat. Framlingham to						13	20	35	23	27	17	40	11	87
Tu. Halesworth to							32	20	31	14	30	50	21	102
† W. & F. Ipswich to								44	19	37	12	22	8	68
Wed. Lowestoff to									57	9	41	55	41	113
* † Mon. Orford to										31	31	40	12	89
Th. Southwold to											30	55	27	106
Th. Stowmarket to												20	19	76
* † Sat. Sudbury to													29	54
Wed. Woodbridge to														77

A table of distances in SUFFOLK. Corporation Towns, governed by a Mayor and Aldermen, are distinguished thus *; boroughs thus †; the market towns have the initials of the days placed against them.

The members for the county, for DUNWICH, and for EYE are not noticed, they make in all sixteen.

LETTER LIII.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE.

JOHN SHELDON, Esq.

MY DEAR SIR,

BEFORE I proceed to give an account of CAMBRIDGESHIRE as a province, I shall go into some of those reflections which forced themselves upon me during the short time I passed in my way from BURY to that justly celebrated university. My mind naturally expanded with most ardent satisfaction at the genial influence the spring of 1799 had, compared with that of 1798, on both animal and vegetable nature. The grain was up every where, and the wheat in particular very forward, so much so, that flocks of sheep were turned in to nibble the tender shoots, a circumstance most particularly advantageous to them, as it naturally conduced to sweeten their milk for the nourishment of their young, which lay about in the fields to an astonishing number. The geese were equally benefited by the grass on the commons, where they marched stately and indignantly to protect the goslings that were spread every where in patches, and with their coats, a mixture of brown and yellow, looked like bees through a magnifying glass.

I dined at NEWMARKET, and my first reflection was that this region where young men are initiated into every thing nefarious, disgraceful, and profligate, is only thirteen miles from the seat of that learning and study, which polish and refine

society, and widely diffuse their influence, to the honour of the pulpit, the senate and the bar? Is it not wonderful that so many of the highest characters in the kingdom have so long countenanced the gambling system at NEWMARKET? Merely horse-racing, as far is it promotes the breed of superior horses, is a very manly thing, and ought not only to be tolerated, but warmly encouraged; but when fortunes are won and lost upon a sweepstakes, and when the operations of an impending campaign are suspended in the public mind for a week at a time, to give way to the more important intelligence that Blackstockings has won the races at the risk of many thousands, and beat Galligaskins by a nose and a a half, what can be so frivolous and pitiful?

These, however, are not apposite epithets, for such conduct is degrading and scandalous, and nothing can palliate the serious injury done to society, that the money due to butchers, bakers, and taylors, should be thus kicked down, and the industrious tradesman obliged to sneak into the Gazette, that his right honourable defrauder may cut a figure at NEWMARKET.

As I arrived at this strange scene of folly and madness on Thursday in the Craven week, I had full opportunity of following up these remarks. The refuse of the day before, which was served up for dinner, gave one an idea of a Lord Mayor's kitchen. Every thing was noise and confusion, and when I called for the bill, without giving me time to explain myself, the waiter, as if he thought my existence depended upon the issue ef the race, informed me that Mr. WHALEY had won one handycap plate, and Sir FERDINAND POOLE the other.

While I waited for that collection of scraps, which was the only dinner to be procured, it struck me, that if the table at which we sat were to be brought into the Court of King's Bench as evidence of the profligacy of mankind, it would extort from Lord KENYON a torrent of eloquence. A kind of mental LAVATER, could such a one be endowed with sufficient sagacity to guess at the outline of the mind by the actions it impressed on the body, out of the hundreds of cuts and slashes on the table, evidently produced by temporary excitements in the exercise of the box and dice, during the three preceding evenings, might have

established a system of conjecture as to the sums that had been won and lost at hazard, and the various effects it had impressed on the tempers of those desperate votaries of fortune, many of whom had perhaps left their families at home, to curse NEWMRRKET and all its consequences.

Various reflections, and all akin to these, filled my mind till my arrival at CAMBRIDGE, and were at that place changed for others of a different complexion, which I shall describe, after I shall have gone into some general remarks relative to the county itself.* It is bounded on the west by HUNTINGDONSHIRE and BEDFORDSHIRE, on the north by LINCOLNSHIRE, and on south by ESSEX and HERTFORDSHIRE. It is about fifty-two miles in length from north to south, twenty-six in breadth from east to west, and about a hundred and thirty miles in circumference. The principal rivers are the Ouse, of which I have said enough already; and the Cam,

* I cannot quit this subject till I have drawn a portrait of it in a new light. I have already mentioned that I learned a great deal concerning ENGLAND when I was in FRANCE, and particularly at a convent of the Chartreux, at NANCI, in LORRAINE. One day, speaking of this country, one of the monks, who had visited it before he became a recluse, was giving the rest in my hearing an account of NEWMARKET. Never, said he, did I see such a splendid shew of fine horses at any review of an army by the French King, or any prince in Christendom. No description I am able to make can give you an adequate idea of it. After the matches are over, there is public play at all the inns, which lasts a great part of the night; and to these houses come the very same sharpers, which, at the different seasons, you will find at BATH and all the other public places; the only distinction is, that they dress at BATH like noblemen, and at NEWMARKET like horse jockies.

The horse racing, and this kind of gambling, are not, however, enough to content the English, who, were they not the bravest people in the world, were their character taken from what I am going to describe, might be called cruel and cowardly. The amusement I allude to is called cock fighting, which is performed in a sort of amphitheatre in miniature, named a cock-pit. There the cocks fight in the area as the beasts did formerly among the Romans, and round this circus sit the spectators in several rows. I was at several of these matches, and so wonderful is the courage of these little creatures, that I never saw a cock run away. It must be allowed, however, that this is a remnant of the barbarous customs of this island, and it is certainly a disgrace to it. If an Italian, a German, or a Frenchman, should by chance come into one of these cock-pits, without knowing beforehand what was meant by it, he would conclude all the assembly to be mad, for the clamour at every blow that passes is beyond any thing that can be conceived, every spectator taking part with his favourite cock, as if it were a party cause. I made the best apology I could, and finished with assuring him, that though such brutality certainly could not be defended, it was not our national character, for we had among us many who execrated both such conduct and its perpetrators. I was glad the subject was no further agitated, and that I had not been driven to a necessity of defending bull-baiting.

which rises in HERTFORDSHIRE, and falls into the Ouse at STREATHEM MOOR. There are no other rivers, but there are drains which carry off the water from the fens, where the air is damp and foggy, and consequently aguish; but in the southern and eastern parts it is esteemed very salubrious. CAMBRIDGESHIRE is in the province of CANTERBURY aud diocese of ELY. It is divided into seventeen hundreds, in which are contained one city, eight market towns, and a hundred and sixty-three parishes, and it sends six members to parliament.

ROYSTON, a small part of which stands in HERTFORDSHIRE, is a well known and rather a curious town. It was formerly called ROYSES-CROSS, from a lady named ROYSIA, supposed to have been the Countess of NORFOLK. This lady having erected a cross on the spot where the town stands, which was considered as a pious work, EUSTACHIUS DE MARK followed it up by founding a small monastery, which he dedicated to St. THOMAS of CANTERBURY; pilgrims therefore resorted thither, for whose entertainment inns and houses were built, till at length it became a town. Every body has heard of the ROYSTON crow, which is a bird that is partly black and partly ash coloured, and which isvery rarely found except at this place.

The city of ELY is situated seventeen miles north of CAMBRIDGE, ninety-six north by east of LONDON, twenty-three miles from HUNTINGDON, and the same distance from St. EDMUND'S-BURY. I think it rather beneath the dignity of a historian to enquire whether it derived its name from prodigious numbers of eels that were found near it, or from Helys, a Saxon word signifying willows, a question that has been combated with great obstinacy. It is an ancient and uncouth city, and never will be well inhabited, on account of the moist and unhealthy air from the fens; the consequence is, that it is dirty and neglected. The church is four-hundred feet long, and its tower two-hundred feet high. The cupola has a handsome effect at a distance, and therefore holds out a kind of invitation, but upon a nearer approach you find it is merely an ornament, and bought more for shew than use.

WISBEACH is by no means an inconsiderable town. It is well built and populous. It has a good public hall, and an episcopal palace belonging to the Bishop

of ELY, who of course has good sense enough to give this residence the preference. Uncommon pains have been taken to render this town pleasant and healthy, and the convenience of water carriage, which, notwithstanding its near situation to the fens both of CAMBRIDGESHIRE and LINCOLNSHIRE, is by no means an annoyance, procures a great intercourse of trade with LONDON, all which advantages appear to speak the ingenuity, good sense, and perseverance of the inhabitants in bringing it to this state of perfection, when we consider that in the thirteenth century the whole town and all that then inhabited it were drowned by the operation of one tempest.

Near BARNWELL is STURBRIDGE, a village celebrated on account of its fair, which is the most remarkable in ENGLAND. It begins on the eighth of December, and is held in a corn-field about half a mile square, which space is covered with booths built in regular streets, and called by the names of the streets in LONDON. Among these booths are not only shops for almost every kind of commodity and manufacture, but eating-houses, coffee-houses, music-houses, buildings for the exhibition of puppet-shews, drolls, legerdemain, monsters, and wild-beasts, all which indeed are no novelty at fairs, but here they are seen to a much greater extent than any where else.

There is also at this fair a area of about a hundred yards square, called the duddery, where the clothiers unload, and in this place woollen goods have been sold to the amount of a hundred thousand pounds in a week. The manufacturers of NORFOLK, ESSEX, and SUFFOLK have been known to lay out sixty-thousand pounds in wool; and the ironmongery and upholstery goods amount also to an immense sum, which is yet exceeded by the hops, for the price of those all over the kingdom is generally fixed at this mart, and large commissions are negociated for all parts of the nation. The last day is appropriated to the sale of horses and horse races.

The heavy goods from LONDON are brought by sea to LYNN in NORFOLK, and thence conveyed in barges up the Ouse to the Cam, and so to the fair. The vast concourse of people whom business and pleasure have brought to this fair.

which continues a fortnight, have been so great, that not only CAMBRIDGE, but all the neighbouring towns and villages, have been full, and the very barns and out-houses converted into lodgings for the meaner sort of people. More than fifty hackney coaches from LONDON have been known to ply at this place, and even wherries have been conveyed in waggons from the Thames to row people up and down the Cam; and notwithstanding the concourse of people, and the multiplicity of business, there has been seldom any confusion or disorder by which either life or property could be endangered, a court of justice having been every day held by the magistrates of CAMBRIDGE. whose custom has been to proceed in a summary way, and with such diligence and steadiness that the place has rather resembled a well ordered city than a fair. It will easily be seen that I am not speaking of the present day, this and all other fairs having gradually degenerated for many years.

I cannot leave this part of the county without relating a most melancholy accident that happened in BARNWELL in the year 1727, at which time about a hundred and twenty persons were burnt or suffocated by a fire that broke out in a large thatched barn at the time they were in the heighth of witnessing the exhibition of a puppet-shew. The barn was wilfully set on fire by a man who had been refused admission gratis. Six persons only escaped with life, and among the sufferers were several young ladies of fortune, and many little boys and girls; and as individuals could not be discovered, being reduced to one indistinguishable heap of mangled bones and flesh, the bodies being half consumed and totally disfigured, a large hole was dug in the church-yard, and all were promiscuously buried together. It is further related that the execrable villain who perpetrated this dreadful calamity is supposed to have eluded justice.

It cannot be expected that, in a work like this, which, by its title, pledges me to nothing more than observations on what came under my notice in my tour, I should go into the origins of national institutions, or discuss at length points of such importance as would receive material injury from abstract arguments. Upon these grounds it will be impossible to furnish the public here with a history of the University of CAMBRIDGE, or even a CAMBRIDGE Guide. I shall therefore

content myself with such remarks made at that visit as my recollection at this time furnishes me with, reserving, however, others perhaps of a more interesting nature for a future letter, wherein I mean to consider the subject of universities in general.

We find CAMBRIDGE a seat of learning at the time of the Conquest, and it is, I believe, allowed on all hands that HENRY, surnamed BEAUCLERC, from his great learning, who was the darling son of WILLIAM the Norman, was placed under the doctors of that body then incorporated there. Formerly the students hired halls or hotels of the townsmen for their exercises and disputations. Extortion naturally was the consequence, and the patrons of learning, therefore, projected other places of meeting. Colleges were built, which now amount, by a gradual addition from HENRY the Third,. to sixteen colleges and halls. The government of the university I cannot go into here. It may be seen in the Court Calendar. I shall simply say, that the whole number of fellows in all the colleges amounts to four hundred and six, and of scholars to six hundred and sixty-six, besides which there are two hundred and thirty-six inferior officers and servants of various kinds, who are maintained on the foundation. In this arrangement those sons of noblemen and gentlemen who are considered as a kind of honorary members, under the title of fellow commoners, are not included.

I have frequently been at CAMBRIDGE, and have of course seen every thing remarkable in the university. At this time I went over the library and King's chapel with some attention. I was well pleased to see the busts of celebrated men, either in point of title or personal merit, which adorned this room. These busts are by ROUBILLAC and SKEEMAKERS. The window at the end is executed by PICKET of York, from a most charming design by CIPRIANI. It is a washed drawing, touched occasionally on the extreme lights with chalk. There is an Esculapius, very small, but an admirable relick. I cannot greatly admire the SHAKESPEARE, though I consider it as highly honourable to the university that his portrait should be preserved in it, for though he has been reproached for his ignorance of Greek and Latin, he knew from nature what perhaps may be improved, but what cannot be taught in universities.

The curiosities are not, in number or variety, sufficient to constitute a museum, but they are well chosen and in good preservation. There is a mummy and a shrivelled human body. There is also an Egyptian Pagod, a most lovely piece of deformity, and perfectly well calculated to extort admiration from ignorance. The skeleton of the man and the monkey bear a wonderful resemblance. I own I am not competent to go into so nice a subject, but from general appearances, I should be apt to fall in with VOLTAIRE, who thinks there is a chain of degradation from man to the ugliest species of monkey, and certainly the circumstance that a Hottentot is a more monkey looking creature than an Orang-outang, induces a strong belief of this doctrine; but our very intelligent friend SHELDON, to whose authority I implicitly bow, gives such reasons for a contrary belief as are by me unanswerable, and I have no doubt, so complete is his knowledge, and so correct his judgement, that they cannot be answered by any body else. Perhaps you know the gentleman.

The King's Chapel is remarkable for its astonishing lightness, considering its height, and the disadvantage of standing without collateral support. Were it the middle aisle of a cathedral, one would easily conceive how that lightness might be consistent with solidity, a number of corresponding parts being, upon that principle, made to knit into one another. LINCOLN Cathedral I have already noticed as a proof of this. The different subjects on the windows have partially wonderful merit. The correctness of the drawing, the beauty of the colouring, and expression of the countenances, are very admirable; but that perpetual chequering of the leads between such very small panes of glass, makes the eyes ache, and destroys much of that admiration which would otherwise be felt, by the infinite pains you are obliged to take in searching for those ojects which excite it. There is a story that these windows were taken down and buried in the time of OLIVER CROMWELL, and that the end window was never recovered, and therefore another was substituted with glass, without ornaments; but we are told not to believe this. It should seem, however, that the thing is feasible, for one of the windows is allowed to be mismatched, and the snbject of another to be wholly inexplicable.

The spectator is at length repaid for that exertion he is obliged to make for the gratification of his curiosity. The remarks excited in consequence are naturally different in different people. A judge of proportion and expression, and those other parts of a painting that redound to the fame and reputation of an artist, will admire the good sense and classical accuracy in placing subjects of the Old Scriptures above those of the New, to shew the first as prophecies of what afterwards happened in the other. Thus the temptation of Eve was the forerunner of a general curse, and the salutation of the Virgin Mary the harbinger of a general blessing. The first appearance of Moses, the deliverer of the Israelites, is in the same manner a most proper companion for the first appearance of Christ, the Saviour of the world. There are many parallels equally traceable, and particularly Elijah taken up into heaven, and Elisha catching at his mantle; and the ascension of our Saviour, which have great contrast and yet beget the same sort of admiration.

As to the merits of the paintings particularly, the attitude of the Queen of Sheba in the fourth window; the countenance of Isaac in the fifth; the merciless look of the assassin preparing to murder the child at his feet in the sixth; Lazarus raised from the dead by Christ in the eighth; Christ bound, a most charming trait of meekness and resignation, in the tenth; the conscious shame of David in the eleventh; the fixed misery, mingled with a degree of resignation in Mary Magdalen in the fourteenth; the astonishment of Darius at finding Daniel alive in the lion's den unhurt, in the seventeeth: these and many other objects will arrest the attention of the judicious, though perhaps among the generality of visitors higher encomiums will be bestowed on the burning bush, the star in the east, the manna falling from heaven, which I heard a gentleman declare looked very natural, the trumpeter's cheeks, the countenance of Judas, and many other supposed beauties.

These few remarks will shew sufficiently that if I were to give myself the same indulgence as often as I might find opportunity, it would be impossible to get through my work in any thing like the space I have allotted myself, I shall

therefore, that I may hasten on with my task, enumerate the principal plants which are curious in CAMBRIDGESHIRE, speak of its celebrated men, and then take my leave of that county.

There are many uncommon plants in CAMBRIDGESHIRE, and some of them are perhaps peculiar to that county, and this renders it the more extraordinary that the plants in LINCOLNSHIRE have not a more curious character, for there are fens in both counties. Such plants as grow near the borders of ESSEX are nearly the same as those I have already described speaking of that county. Among these are saffron, and others. As to common stone basil, water-aloe, different chick-weeds, marsh tway-blade, flea-bane, maiden-pink, bastard-parsley, the milfoils, the common pasque flower, deadly night-shade, and upright speedwell, my readers have already seen an ample account of them.

There are two pimpernels in CAMBRIDGESHIRE, both of that species called brook-lime, the properties of which I have already described, one of these bears a blue flower. Goose-grass with a smooth seed, *apærine semine lava.* LINNEUS makes this a species of the galium, or cheese rennet, under which title it is called lady's-bed-straw. This plant is said to have many virtues, but it is not used in shops. In the northern parts of ENGLAND it is sometimes a substitute for rennet, and thence comes its name of cheese-rennet, the flowers having an acidity which they extract by distillation. Among the different species of the orchis which grows in CAMBRIDGESHIRE are yellow-sweet, or musk-orchis; green-winged humble bee satyrion, fly orchis, dwarf orchis, and others. I have already shewn that they are a species of that useful root from which salep is made. I only mention them here to notice that most of these varieties well deserve situations in gardens, for the flowers are singularly formed, the odour in some of them very grateful, and their colours bright and various. The difficulty of removing them has been stated as an objection, which indeed has some weight, both as to this plant and to every thing bulbous that grows wild, but with care they might be removed with very little danger in October.

Both the bindweeds, which are the convolvolus major and minor, grow properly in CAMBRIDGESHIRE, and indeed every where else; they are a most rank inconvenient weed, but the flower is surely very beautiful, but as the annual convolvolus may be safely propagated in gardens without danger of its spreading, the more, the almost impossible task of destroying the wild convolvolus is attempted the better. Everlasting pea, or chichling vetch, *lathyrus latifolius* grows naturally and to great perfection in this county, which is I believe an extraordinary circumstance. Mountain cudweed, or catsfoot, grows near NEWMARKET, and upon most heaths. It is an inconsiderable thing, and all the pains that has been taken to extract from it any medical qualities have been long since abandoned.

Wild liquorice, or milk vetch, *astragalus*. Of the common liquorice, I shall speak pretty much at length when we get to PONTEFRACT in YORKSHIRE. It also grows near GODALMING in SURRY. The above is no more than a wild vetch, and probably called liquorice from its emitting a liquor which is said to have the same effect as that produced by the liquorice root, but I see no proof of it, for though the root has been used medicinally, to very little effect however, its qualities are as completely different as its form. It bears a butterfly flower. Herb Paris, true-love, or one-berry, *Paris foliis quaternis*. It is remarkable that only one sort of this plant has been discovered, but that one has been sufficiently examined, for it has been found by some botanists to be an aconite and a poison, and by others a powerful antidote, which however does not contradict the first assertion, for every body knows that poison expels poison.

St. Peter's wort, which is an *ascyrum* grows in most of the fenny grounds. Among the thistles in this county are the woolly or Friar's crown which is an *onopordum*, and the carlini thistle, *carlina sylvestris vulgaris*, said with great gravity to have been discovered by an angel to CHARLEMAGNE to cure his army of the plague. One should apprehend that this plant is the *carduus benedictus*, but I find no account that either confirms or refutes that idea. The different sorts of flax which grow in CAMBRIDGESHIRE seem to be those plants which are in a degree peculiar to it. There is a long tract of country between ST. OMER and DOUAY in FRANCE ex-

tremely like BEDFORD LEVEL where flax grows wild and yet in great perfection. I was informed that the texture of some sorts of it was so delicate and yet so strong that they could cultivate nothing like it. It is the blue flowering flax which chieflly grows in CAMBRIDGESHIRE.

I shall begin my account of extraordinary characters in CAMBRIDGESHIRE with HEBDEN a noted carrier in the reign of JAMES the first who got a great estate by which he relieved the poor of CAMBRIDGE, and built a public school and a conduit in the Market Place. CLARKE, a learned writer of the sixteenth century was born at CAMBRIDGE. Through a successful dispute he had with GARDENER Bishop of WINCHESTER concerning the pronunciation of the Greek tongue he was sent for to Court where he superintended the studies of Prince EDWARD and is said to have had a share in forming the noble mind of ELIZABETH whose prosperity however he did not live to see, for in the reign of MARY, being stripped of his possessions and being obliged to take shelter in a foreign land he was pursued with great art and industry, and being seized was brought back to ENGLAND, where not being endued with the horoic spirit of a martyr, he renounced the protestant faith and died of a broken heart.

TAYLER bishop of DOWN and CONNOR in IRELAND was also born at CAMBRIDGE. His works are numerous and greatly esteemed. TENNISON, Archbishop of CANTERBURY towards the latter part of the seventeenth century and beginning of the eighteenth was a native of COTTENHAM. He is conspicuously remembered by having crowned Queen ANNE, and having been honoured with the first place among the Commissioners who concluded the union between ENGLAND and SCOTLAND. He also crowned GEORGE the first. His works were of the theological kind and principally controversial parts of them did not hit the taste of SWIFT who said they were like a taylor's goose, hot and heavy. BARROW, an eminent mathematician is generally said to have been a native of SUFFOLK, but I think the best reasoners are of opinion that CAMBRIDGESHIRE has the greatest right to claim him. Perhaps he was born in some part of NEWMARKET which stands in both counties. His eminent character is well known. He died Chancellor of the University of CAMBRIDGE.

JEREMY COLLIER, a man of a strange, turbulent and unquiet spirit, was a native of this county. The part he took in the writings of the nonjuring party for which, he was taken up, and through great interest released; his extraordinary conduct in the affair of FRIEND and PERKINS, who were convicted of being in the assassination plot, and others of his strange pranks, and the difficulty with which he always contrived to keep his neck out of the halter are well known; but the most notorious part of his conduct was the publication of his Essay on the immorality of the Stage, which though there appears to have been no extraordinary morality in the rest of his conduct contained the essence of such honest truth that all the dramatic wits of that day in spight of the pains they were at to answer it sunk under the weight of its arguments: so true it is that the most brilliant abilities will always be foiled in a bad cause.

Your's, my dear Sir,

Leicester-Place,

very sincerely,

Dec. 8, 1801.

C. DIBDIN.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE.

A table of distances in CAMBRIDGESHIRE. CAMBRIDGE only is governed by a Mayor and Aldermen. The University is under the immediate jurisdiction of the Vice-Chancellor, subject to the controul of the Chancellor. The civil government of ELY is with the Bishop, and it is the only city in the kingdom that does not return members to parliament—two for the county, two for the town of CAMBRIDGE, and two for the University, being all the members by which this county is represented.

	Caxton	Ely	Lynton	Marsh	Newmarket	Royston	Wisbeach	London
Tu. & Sat. Cambridge to	17	17	6	32	13	13	30	51
Caxton to		34	23	30	30	12	40	57
Sat. Ely to			23	15	15	30	18	66
Lynton to				38	12	16	36	48
Frid. Marsh to					31	42	52	81
Th. Newmarket to						26	33	61
Wed. Royston to							48	38
Sat. Wisbeach to								88

LETTER LIV.

HUNTINGDONSHIRE.

JOHN SHELDON, Esq.

MY DEAR SIR,

HUNTINGDONSHIRE next claims my attention. It is a county of no great consequence upon the map, nor are there many material circumstances recorded of it. It is however a pleasant county; the air is considered as very wholesome, except in the northern parts among the fens and meers, with which on that side it abounds; the land is rich and feeds a large number of fine cattle, not only for slaughter but for the dairy, witness the STILTON cheese. There are great plenty of water-fowl, fish, turf for firing, coals and wood being rather scarce, the soil in many parts is rich and fruitful, and the corn in general is held in good estimation.

This small county is bounded on the east by CAMBRIDGESHIRE, on the south by BEDFORDSHIRE, on the west by NORTHAMPTONSHIRE, and on the north by NORTHAMPTONSHIRE and LINCOLNSHIRE. It extends twenty-four miles in length from north to south, eighteen in breadth from east to west, and is about sixty-seven in circumference. It is divided into four hundreds, in which are six market towns, but no city. It lies in the province of CANTERBURY and diocese of LINCOLN, and sends

four members to parliament. The rivers are the Ouse, and the Nen, both of which my readers have been long acquainted with. There are however small lakes or meers, one of which, Whittlesey-meer, is six miles long and three wide, the others are called Ug-meer, Brick-meer, Ramsey-meer, and Benwick-meer, all which are formed from the river Nen.

It is remarkable that all these meers, but particularly the first, are sometimes thrown into the most violent agitations without an apparent cause. The conjecture is that these extraordinary effects are produced by internal volcanic struggles, or subterrannean winds. A consideration however of this subject here would be premature, I shall therefore defer it till I speak of the Derwent and some of the lochs in SCOTLAND, which are affected at times in the same manner, at which time I shall to the explanations of these phœnomena by others, add my own opinion. As to mineral springs, there is one near ST. NEOT'S, and another at ST. IVES. There is nothing however said of either worthy particular attention.

ST. NEOTS is a populous town, pretty large, and tolerably well built. Its great advantage is that coals are brought there by the river Ouse, and thence conveyed to different parts. YAXLEY is seated in the fens, in the road from STILTON to PETERBOROUGH. The houses are pretty well built, and the church has a lofty spire. KIMBOLTON, remarkable for its castle, which is esteemed a great ornament to the west part of the country, is a small town eight miles south-west of HUNTINGDON. ST. IVES was once a very flourishing town, and had a mint. It suffered by fire, and was only partially rebuilt, and, indeed, as agriculture is the only prosperous study in this county, the villages, as in LEICESTERSHIRE, are more wealthy than the towns.

GODMANCHESTER, which is only parted by a bridge from HUNTINGDON, is a proof of this remark. It has been long noted for its husbandry, in which for its size it has made extraordinary improvements. The inhabitants as I was informed hold their lands by a tenure, which obliges them when any king of ENGLAND passes that way to attend him with their ploughs and harrows adorned with rustic trophies, and they boast that upon some such accasions they have exhibited no less

than nine-score ploughs. JAMES the First, who was paid a compliment of this description, incorporated them, though, heaven knows, it is a paltry place, and cannot be considered in appearance otherwise than as the suburbs of HUNTINGDON. Near this place is a tree, well known to travellers, called Beggar's Bush, near which it is said Chancellor BACON was reproved by JAMES the First, for being improvidently charitable to a beggar; since when it has been a proverb in that county to say, that when a man squanders away his money absurdly, he is in the way to Beggar's Bush.

HUNTINGDON is seated on a small hill on the north side of the Ouse, sixteen miles from CAMBRIDGE, twenty-three from ELY, and fifty-seven from LONDON. It takes its name from the county, and that from the circumstance of its having been one entire forest till it was dismantled by HENRY the Second. It had once fifteen churches, which are now reduced to two. I remember when I was there fourteen years ago, a hair-dresser, in answer to some questions I asked him on this subject, made this reply, Alas! Sir, said he, this place had formerly a number of parishes, but they are now dwindled, and we have only four church-yards three spires, two churches, and one parson.

As to plants, none are to be found in HUNTINGDONSHIRE but such as are common to its neighbouring counties; and for celebrated characters, I cannot find any worthy particular notice except COTTON, who founded the Cottonian Library, was admired by his country, and born at DENTON; and OLIVER CROMWELL, who usurped the throne, was execrated by his country, and born at HUNTINGDON.

As, on leaving this county, I got into the track which, in the first volume, I addressed to our hearty friend KING, I shall bid you a temporary adieu. I shall not cease, however, to think both of you and all your kindness.

Your's,

Leicester-Place. with truth and fidelity,

Dec. 30, 1801. C. DIBDIN.

	Godmanchester	Huntingdon	Kimbolton	St. Ives	St. Neots	Stilton	Yaxley	London
Bugden to	2	3	6	10	6	14	16	56
Godmanchester to		1	9	7	8	13	15	58
Sat. Huntingdon to			9	6	9	12	15	59
Fri. Kimbolton to				15	10	20	22	64
Mon. St. Ives to					14	19	21	59
Th. St. Neots to						19	21	50
Stilton to							2	75
Yaxley to								77

HUNTINGDONSHIRE.

There is no Corporation Town in this connty besides HUNTINGDON, and the four members it returns to parliament, are two for that town, and two for the county. The market towns have their days placed before them.

LETTER LV.

DIALECTS.

WILLIAM WOODFALL, Esq.

MY DEAR SIR,

THOUGH the term dialect, literally taken, means nothing more than manner of expression; yet our fixed idea of that word is the peculiar idiomatic style in which different provincial characters convey the sense of their conversation from mere habit and custom, and to this we are all apt to affix a portion of ridicule singly on account of that novelty and strangeness with which our ears are assailed, forgetting, which is also the case in every instance of deriding the peculiarity of others, that we are to them as fair objects of derision as they are to us.

It is in this, as it is in every thing else relative to language, in which one clever set of men are combated by another clever set of men, neither of which, though all contend for unobjectionable rules, can wholly establish why any position should be predominant; and thus construction, style, pronunciation, and every thing else necessary to the conveyance of our ideas, are bewildered in conjecture, while the business is to convince. By this means, a communication of the simplest thoughts, instead of being made easy and familiar to the understanding, and rendered clear and self-evident, are as it were, hurried away by

a torrent of logic, to which it is unavailable to oppose any rational argument, especially if the reasoning be put with quaintness, and enforced by vociferation. I will put a case.

That is a very handsome decanter, says a man, as he pours out a glass of wine. I beg your pardon, says another, it is not a decanter at all. It is a thing into which wine is decanted, but it is not a decanter; for the man who decants it is the decanter, and not the vessel that contains it. Thus are all the inhabitants of the world, from that moment, commanded to deprive a harmless and useful utensil of that name, by which, till that moment, all the world had been contented to call it.

Exactly upon this principle might every thing fall under the lash of cavil, for I will not call it criticism, that custom has permitted to stand as a part both of writings and conversations. Any man of penetrating observation might put this position into twenty points of view. One situation will, however, be enough to serve my purpose, which shall be the perpetual infringement, according to this mode of argument, on the properties of the genitive case. Nothing is more common to utter, that lady is a kind friend of *mine*; that gentleman is a relation of *yours*; which means, nor can it mean any thing else literally, that lady is a kind friend of my kind friend, and that gentleman is a relation of your relation. It is impossible to argue the matter differently, while the genitive case is allowed to mean *of* or *belonging to*, for you cannot say a friend belonging to mine, or a relation belonging to mine, without rendering your mode of expression liable to the above objection.

Again, it means PETER's house, or PETER his house, or the house of PETER, which is all very well, as it relates to PETER; but all the world cannot reconcile it, speaking of MARY, for though you may say the cap of MARY, yet you cannot say MARY his cap, nor, by the same token, MARY's cap; and, as for MARY her cap, it is totally out of the question; therefore, in this slight particular, men and women must be unsexed, become neutrals, and mere *its* before the genitive case can be properly applied. What does this resolve itself into? Simply this,

that precision thus overpowered must cease, and custom be permitted to rule.

Style, to give it the term that best explains it, may be called dress, which, in decorating our language as in decorating our persons, yields to almighty fashion; therefore, to fix a criterion for it would be to stay time or turn the tide. Purity is the primary merit of style, and indeed to be immaculate, it ought to be wholly exempt from expletives, which conclusion, were it enforced by any fiat from which there could be no appeal, would shut up all the mouths, and nine-hundred and ninety-nine books out of every thousand in the kingdom. Fortunately, however, there are some few saving clauses in favour of the head as well as the heart; and, though it were well enough that both should be as perfect as possible, yet, as it is human to err, and it would be inhuman fastidiously to blame, let therefore the wise and the good allow, or at least pass over, such venial faults as the construction of our existence, and our communication with the world have made common to us all.

Indeed, without the permission of this latitude we should lose half, and, to say the truth, the most agreeable half, of that intelligence we were born to receive and communicate. The useful is a valuable, a gratifying, and of course a desirable attainment, and so is bread; but men are not required to live on bread alone; on the contrary, they are not supposed to lose much of their wisdom and goodness, if they qualify the relish of their bread by adding the wing of a chicken, or moisten it with a glass of Madeira; and upon the same principle, therefore, that I should suspect a man of taking a sup in a corner, who squeamishly affected, like MARMONTEL'S *Philosophe soi disant*, to prefer the chrystal stream before company, I shall not hesitate to say that the sweet is, and ought to be, the first consideration, provided it be properly kept under the guidance of the useful.

As to pronunciation, it has been well said, that it makes much the most difficult part of grammar. The fact is, it never was, it is not, nor will it ever be fixed. Dr. JOHNSON says, we have a cursory and a solemn pronunciation. The

cursory, being of course vitiated and managed unskilfully, is reducible to no criterion, and it is admitted that even the solemn is by no means immutable and permament. From the time of ELIZABETH to the present day, attempts have been made to reduce pronunciation to a system; but it cannot be; for our language is daily encreased by idiomatic words from other languages, and the best scholars by way of getting off their trammels and descending from their stilts, are glad enough to adopt the quaint vulgarisms of grooms and drovers; not that by way of relaxation, this is a thing without entertainment or even instruction. The French idiom *au fait* cannot be better translated than by the blackguardism *up to it,* and so of other instances.

It has been elegantly said that speech, the peculiar glory of rational intercourse is neither given nor guided by an arbitrary power, but that use in language as in all nature, is no other than the constant agency of harmony and reason. There are so many interventions by which pronunciation is sophisticated, that it is downright pedantry to insist even upon those of its laws, at least a slavish obedience to them, as are fixed and final, and to require an implicit acquiescence in those which fluctuate is little short of ill manners. The fact is, they are as futile as they are arbitrary; and, whenever wise men enter learnedly into the subject, the result must infallibly be that, by the time one favourite author has been quoted to the confusion of another, the contention will first become desultory, then violent, and at last inexplicable, and it will finish by their being all right, and all wrong.

The thing most fitting to say is, that as no man has been able to shew in what way a correct and unerring system of pronunciation can be laid down so as to render it obnoxious to no possible objection, as with all their knowledge, all their decision, all their eloquence, the schools have not yet decided how to pronounce the first letter of the alphabet; and, therefore, that many ages must elapse before they can possibly arrive at the last; and, finally, as these *alphas* in criticism are perfectly *omegas* in common sense, let us laugh at dogmatical opinions and accommodate ourselves to that broad, sensible, and convenient regulation, which has been well distinguished above as the constant agent of harmony and reason.

It cannot appear strange that I should so warmly contest these points when I have the cause of such an immense number of individuals to plead. Indeed, I cannot be too warm, and I hope to acquit myself with such propriety and impartiality as to be entitled to the thanks of the nation, from the LAND'S-END to the HIGHLANDS in SCOTLAND; from the winnegar and weal of the Londoners to the bwead and the beouw-bawwel of the inhabitants of NEWCASTLE. What after all is there in dialect but habit? and what is there in habit to say the worst of it, but singularity? which, since there is no human being but has a portion of it, it is self-reproach to consider it as ridiculous, or at any rate obnoxious to that risibility which excites contempt.

This corruption, or if you will from its Babel like quality, this confusion of language, arises from a prodigious number of adventitious circumstances. It is easy to see in what way stray branches and vagrant shoots all belong to the same root. The ancient Welch, Irish, and Scotch, have unquestionably been originally Gaelic, and indeed according to my information exactly as the Spaniards, the Portugueze, and the Italians all understand one another, because the principles of their different languages all originate in the Latin; so PADDY, SAWNEY, and TAFFY, were they to meet together upon any one of their respective mountains, would form a harmonious trio, in which all the parts would tend to a right understanding; the Welch forming the treble, the Irish the tenor, and the Scotch the bass.

The inferences from the remark that corruptions are no more than exuberances would lead me into a research which would not be much in point here, and which indeed would render this letter merely circumstantial, when my proper business is to make it entertaining. I shall therefore content myself with noticing that this linguadental disease is not peculiar to this or any other country, for on the contrary it is common to every one. The inhabitants of GASCONY who, from being accustomed to the Italians, drawl out their words and never fail to pronounce a final vowel, as well as those of NORMANDY, who always use three negatives*,

* The Normans are out done by the Londoners. A very short time ago a man made an apology to me for some negligence, in these words; "I beg your pardon, but it shan't never happen not no more."

probably because all terms of law, which of course deal in tautology, originate from them, and many other places are laughed at by the good people of PARIS, and their dialects stigmatized with the title of *patois*; when to be upon a par the Parisians have a *patois* of their own, which is after all nothing more than the practice of our metropolis, where country hicks are sure to get the current coin of their lingo exchanged for slang*.

I have said this to narrow the question as much as possible; and to shew that the ridicule pointed at others, merely because custom has created a difference in the manner respectively of their making themselves understood, will be sure to recoil on themselves; therefore, let them look at their own peculiarities before

* Slang, which is the LONDON patois, merits certainly in this letter particular notice. It makes up three fourths among the low, and indeed among the high, of common-place metropolitan wit; and, but for this ornamental accomplishment, half the vapidity and non chalence of the BOND-STREET and box-lobby loungers would evaporate, and leave nothing by way of sediment but the very little Greek and Latin which had been flogged into them at College. When I inform them, however, that this same slang is a corruption of the English language, not occasioned by a compliance with ancient construction, like a country dialect, but invented by thieves and murderers, like the watch-words of banditties, to elude the pursuits of justice, and that its very appropriation is to deceive, to mislead, to mock, to ensnare; or in its own terms, to queer, to hum, to quiz, and to gammon, perhaps these imitators of blackguardism, at which they may be assured having had money laid out by their fathers to give them some accomplishments, they never will arrive to any thing like the true natty and knowing perfection, may wholly forego a propensity, through which they are so taught to confound the duties of society as to laugh at social obligation, to pit their aunts, to post obit their fathers, and steal from their mothers, and sisters, that attention and respect which they lavish upon prostitutes. To put this in a stronger point of view and shew these yonng gentlemen how dreadful it is to abuse those gifts of nature, and spurn that acquirement by which they might adorn and enlighten society, I shall instance an old well-known circumstance which however actually happened, and may therefore be with propriety recorded. It shows that there is no medium in this vice, but that a yonng man on his entrance into life, may as to externals take his choice to be a gentleman or a gallows-bird. A young man of the haut ton, I am afraid the son of a nobleman, was examined before my Lord MANSFIELD concerning a quarrel, or what is more genteel, a row in the street. "Why," said he, "my lord, as I was coming by the corner of the street I stagged the man." "Well," said Lord MANSFIELD, "but what is stagging a man?" "Stagging! why my lord do you see I was down upon him." "Well "but I don't understand down upon him any more than I do stagging him. Do speak to be understood." "Under-"stood? why I speaks all right, clever, crackish, and rum. I tell you I was up to all he knew." "To all he knew. "I am as much in the dark as ever." "Why, then my Lord, I'll tell you how it was." "Aye, now." "Why, "seeing as how he was a rum kid, I was one upon his tibby." In short it was impossible to make any thing of him, and he was permitted to go out of court, not, however, before he had received a severe admonition to return to the manners of a gentleman, nor longer disgrace a noble family.

they reprobate the peculiarities of others, in which settlement of the account I fancy the balance on either side would be inconsiderable. Besides, it so happens, that in language, as in manners, every species of refinement is accompanied by affectation, while simplicity is unerringly derived from nature. The primary cause of provincial dialects is an extension of vernacular expressions, which are in their nature significant and decided, and, if there should appear an aukwardness in those, it is because they have nothing to recommend them of fashion, which eternally varies, but is confined to custom, which is invariably constant.

If the weather should be disagreeable in CORNWALL, instead of saying, that it is muzzy, queer, or any other of those quaint phrases which I have sufficiently dwelt on, and which seem to mean something without explaining any thing, they say it is a wished bad day, or *dea,* as they pronounce it, meaning that it seems as if a spell had been set upon it, and that it was therefore under the influence of some malignant imprecation. There is another instance of the propriety of this remark in a word used in DEVONSHIRE, which is very comprehensive. They say, four days *suant,* that is to say, following, or in succession. I did it *suant,* or according to, or, in consequence of, your wish. That man's conduct, or that piece of cloth, is *suant,* even, regular, all of a piece; and thus nothing can be clearer than that *suant,* which comes from the French word *suivant,* has all the best implication of that preposition, as well as *selon.*

As to exclamations, they generally mean the same thing, and serve merely as an excuse to recruit the recollection, before any definitive judgement is pronounced, or question asked. A Nottinghamshire man, calling for his horse, says Niow yow oseler will you ye saft bitch praay coom? and, if you ask a Yorkshireman a question, he exclaims, Well, I'se sure I don't know; and then he gives you a very intelligent answer. If used as asseverations, they are generally impressive, and sometimes solemn. Shaure and shaure, in SOMERSETSHIRE, sounds very like sinçerity; sheure and indeed, in DEVONSHIRE, is simple, and yet interesting; and fath and saule, in CORNWALL, is almost equal to an oath.

Before I relate a few provincial conversations, I shall more minutely describe the different chararacters of the dialects, and even then I shall not be

able to convey an idea adequate to my purpose, because of the accent and the tone of the voice. I shall, however, do what I can. Upon this examination we shall see that very inconsiderable and trifling deviations infect the dialect of a whole province. Even the partial pronunciation of a particular letter will do this. In HAMPSHIRE, for example, and part of DORSETSHIRE, they pronounce the *o* before an *r* as an *a*, and instead of horn, corn, morn, cork, fork, they say harn, carn, marn, cark, fark; for won't, the contraction of will not, they say vulgarly waun't, and genteelly on't. In NEWCASTLE, by making the *r* invariably a *w*, expressed, however, in a strong gutteral manner, a quarrel, or, as they call it, a quawwel, between a man and his wife, is not very unlike PUNCH and JOAN in a puppet-shew.

The most prevailing singularity in YORKSHIRE, LANCASHIRE, and indeed almost every where north, is leaving out articles. At LIVERPOOL they say shoot door, snufe candle, coot bread, put hat upon head, and beat pig into stoye. Upon enquiring my way by the side of a navigable cut, I was told to keep foive moile by coot soide; and I heard a woman in YORK say, Looke at cawt a top a touse. In common English, Look at the cat on the top of the house. In SOMERSETSHIRE, whether in imitation of COWLEY or WALLER, or any other of those writers who considered expletives as a poetic beauty, I know not, but the introduction unnecessarily of *do*, and the use of *d* for *th*, constitute in a great measure the peculiarity of their dialect. A very genteel woman at BRISTOL, or indeed at BATH, market, will say, You do naw that I do never give no more nor drippence.

As in one of my entertainments I related a conversation that actually passed at an inn in DEVONSHIRE, I cannot give a better picture of that dialect than by the introduction of it here. A chatty, agreeable, DEVONSHIRD dumpling, for this is a general phrase, like YORKSHIRE tyke, HAMPSHIRE hog, ESSEX calf, &c. travelled for several miles in my company, and had a very pleasant way of playing off the waiters. Addressing himself to an old waiter at an inn, Ay, said he, how as troy? Andre. Ah, measter Dabble, said the waiter, how geeth it? Saure and indeed I be glad to see ye. And I thee, Andry, howust gwan? hasta got arra datur? Eees sheure and indeed. Well now, and is he pratty? As tight as ever tratted

upon a sheew. What colour be her hear? Thur niow! Whoy, it be black muostly, where she dinna white it with the flour-drudge. I do think, Andry, I shall goo and make love to her. Do, ey be so well pleased; chell be cruel obliged to ey, chell warndy.

The nearer the dialect of any county approaches to the language of its original inhabitants, it will be of course less understood, and it will become still more unintelligible when it has partaken of that variety of idioms which have been introduced by its successive conquerors. Thus, by having less communication with the world, and more especially with the schools, the peasants longest retain it, like an ancient melody, or that legendary precision which sanctifies the authenticity of tradition. By this means their pronunciation renders unintelligible to a polite ear the sense of what they attempt to express. If you go to market in CORNWALL, and are cautious how you examine any article, for fear of giving offence, the woman, with all the simplicity in the world, thus encourages you: Taak un oop, an en ye dinna lawyke, skatt un doune againe; hiss no hearme a deaude: which means literally, Take it up, and, if it should not please you, lay it down again; there is no harm done.

The more we go into this, the less we shall be able to shew that so much incongruity can ever be regulated upon any general principle. Vanity is the darling principle of mankind; no vanity is so rooted as that which springs from prejudice, and, under the influence of prejudice, we are all as blind to our own imperfections as the crab that was angry with its offspring for walking crooked, or the man who found fault with his spectacles because he squinted. The subject will not bear an argument beyond this; and, till we see, confess, and amend our own follies, it is the height of arrogance, and indeed of ignorance, to expect a concession of that description from others. Let us therefore afford accommodation, in order that accommodation may be afforded to us.

The following anecdote I know to have been a fact. I believe I have told it in print before, but that is of no great consequence. An Italian, after he had been in ENGLAND about a month, happened, as he was strolling about, to find

himself near BILLINGSGATE. The mobility smoked the foreigner, and were determined to give him what you call a downright blackguarding. This they began with hustling him about. In the course of this very hospitable amusement, he took notice that the word damn occurred very frequently. From this circumstance he took a hint, and, pretending to work himself inso a violent passion, was determined to conquer them with their own weapons, which he thought he might easily effect by thinking of a number of names to which they must be completely strangers. Thus he began: Damn CICERO, damn DEMOSTHENES, damn PLATO, damn ANAXAGORAS, damn SCIPIO, damn HANNIBAL, damn AGAMEMNON, damn ACHILLES; and thus he went on with extreme volubility, throwing his muscles into most frightful contortions, till at length one of mob cried out, Damme, come along JACK; we stand no chance with this fellow, he blackguards ten times better than us.

I am, my dear Sir,

Leicester-Place. Your's very sincerely,

Jan. 3, 1802. C. DIBDIN.

LETTER LVI.

LEICESTERSHIRE.

THOMAS KING, Esq.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

I AM now prepared to finish my account of LEICESTERSHIRE, and, having already spoken of LEICESTER itself in a cursory way, I shall now at more length explain what it is, and what it might be made. It is, however, so very like NOTTINGHAM, both in employment and spirit, or the want of it if you please, that it will never have the courage to be respectable, though it is impossible but it must be wealthy. I have already noticed the market, which is very abundant and consequently very productive; but this operates as no stimulus to public spiritedness, and therefore if any thing is undertaken apparently for the benefit of the community, it is only half done, and therefore inconveniently. Their canal has been the jest of the neighbourhood, and walls and windows have been scrawled to ridicule it.

One of these squibs which I picked up in a curious way, though I cannot condescend to copy it for it was miserable poetry, I shall take the essence of. It describes that the committee who conducted the business, resolved at the first meeting that the canal should be so capacious as to carry a ship, but, when it came to be finished, owing to the niggardly conduct in carrying on the business,

it was not wide or deep enough to carry a barge. An extra meeting was therefore called, when, to remedy the defect, they agreed to cut a ditch to run close by its side. This ridiculous expedient our provincial poet likens to the man who was puzzled to make a hole to let out a cat and its kitten, and who congratulated himself on having hit on a contrivance that would answer the purpose by making a large hole and a small one, forgetting that the large hole would have been sufficient for both.*

MOUNT SORREL, which is a corruption of SOAR HILL, on acount of its situation near the Soar, is about seven miles from LEICESTER, and was formerly famous for

* I had a singular opportunity of learning from a turnpike man some curious particulars relative to the LEICESTER stocking weavers. He told me he had been, till within two years of the time we were conversing, a journeyman wool comber, or, as he phrased it, a wull-cummar; and, though he had been of the utmost use to his employers, particularly as to improvement in his business, which he convinced me of by a display of inventions in the style of those which have made many a man's fortune. They had taken care that he should never get forwarder than this dependant situation, by which he just earned enough to keep an industrious wife and himself. As the poor woman however seldom failed to bless him with a child every year, it not only trenched upon her exertions, notable as she was, but so added to his expences that he knew not how to turn himself. To remedy this, as soon as the little ones were able to crawl he in some way or other set them to work. This called forward a strenuous exercise of his ingenuity: and, as necessity is additionally the parent of invention when stimulated by duty and natural affection, he at length simplified the common machines for spinning, doubling, and twisting, in order to make the work familiar to the capacity of an infant; and, by a variety of trials, so fashioned an instrument as to perform the three operations by one single action. Having turned this fortuitous blessing to so beneficial an account, he began to consider how he should enfranchise himself from his task-masters; when a friend, in addition to what little he had been able to muster together from this piece-work, left him a legacy of twenty pounds. He now determined to be no longer a journeyman for wages. This induced the stocking-makers to turn their backs upon him. In consequence of this, by the advice of some gentlemen to whom he had told his artless story, he farmed the turnpike, which at first he found a hard bargain; but, after a time, it turned in pretty well. His inventions being now his own, he was determined to make them turn to account; and thus the speculators in the stocking trade, who had been so indulged by their parents as to be completely ignorant of that business which alone they were born to superintend, were, at the moment I am speaking of, his scholars, that they might know how to dictate to their journeymen, in what way they might most expedisiously perform their several tasks. The price he charged them was twenty pounds each. He had had several scholars, and was actually training five at the time he gave me this account, in which he blended so much artless simplicity with such unadulterated pleasure and heartfelt content, that, brimful as he was of that happiness which resulted from a prospect of acquiring a competency by his own industry, I know not if a philosophic mind would not feel inclination rather to envy such a turnpike-man than an ARKWRIGHT.

its Castle, built on a steep and craggy hill that hangs over the river. The Castle, however, has been long demolished, and the town is much gone to decay.

LOUGHBOROUGH is pleasantly seated among fertile meadows, near the forest of CHARWOOD. It is remarkably lively, on account of its being so considerable a thoroughfare, and its delightful situation, which, in its general effect, resembles shat rich and smiling part of NORFOLK near SWAFFHAM. ASHBY-DE-LA-ZOUCH is pleasantly situated on the borders of DERBYSHIRE. Here are the ruins of a Castle, which formerly belonged to ALAN DE LA ZOUCH, from whom it came to Lord HASTINGS, who was beheaded by RICHARD the Third, when Duke of GLOUCESTER; and from the family of HASTINGS it lineally descended to the Earls of HUNTINGDON. This town has a plentiful market, and indeed so has every town in this fruitful county. BOSWORTH, nine miles from LEICESTER and eight from ASHBY-DE-LA-ZOUCH, is most agreeably situated. This spot is of infinite advantage, both to the industry and amusement of the farmers. It employs them in the day with work, and in the evening with conversation; for they are not only versed in the whole history of that battle which on this spot was fought between the armies of RICHARD and RICHMOND, afterwards HENRY the Seventh, but are able to relate accounts of arrows heads, pieces of armour, and other warlike accoutrements, and more than this, to point out the very hill on which RICHMOND harrangued his army before the battle.

LUTTERWORTH has nothing remarkable in it unless a handsome church, in which is to be seen the pulpit of the famous reformer WICKLIFF. BILLESDEN, about eight miles from LEICESTER, is still smaller and more inconsiderable than LUTTERWORTH. About two miles from it, however, are two places called BURROW-HILL and ARDBOROUGH, where it has been stoutly contested stood a town and somebody says it, was the ancient VERNOMETUM, which would have been credited had not somebody else proved that the place is WILLOUGHBY. We are told, however, with great gravity, that some modern writers, who by the way one would think were not more likely to know the truth than those who wrote two or three hundred years ago, have set the matter in the clearest light, and indubitably proved that what has been so long taken for a town was no more than a temple.

MELTON MOWBRAY, so called from the ancient family of MOWBRAY, its original lords, is about eighteen miles from NOTTINGHAM. It is well known for its market, which is the most considerable for cattle in that part of the kingdom. I find no account of plants peculiar to LEICESTERSHIRE, and those that grow wild there have therefore either been already mentioned, or will be so in my accounts of other counties. Where agriculture is well followed up, weeds thrive but little. I shall now proceed to speak of celebrated characters.

Sir JOHN BEAUMONT brother to the dramatic poet, who is only known by his poem of Bosworth-Field, was born at a place called GRACEDIEU. BAINBRIDGE, an eminent physician and astronomer of the seventeenth century, who published a description of the comet in 1618, was a LEICESTERSHIRE man. HALL, a learned prelate and an ingenious writer, was born at BUCKSTOW-PARK. He was a remarkable and a meritorious character. He was therefore employed upon important occasions. He accompanied Lord DONCASTER in his embassy to FRANCE, in 1616, and on the following year was chosen by the king as one of the divines who should accompany him into SCOTLAND. In 1618 he was sent to the Synod of DORT, and pitched upon by that body to preach them a sermon in Latin. The states presented him with a valuable medal in token of their esteem and regard. He proved himself during the civil wars a true son of the English church, and therefore had to struggle with difficulties in his old age. His works are numerous and much esteemed. His satires in particular are masterly and original. From the style of his writings, which are forcible and sententious, he has been denominated the Christian SENECA.

VILLIERS, Duke of BUCKINGHAM, who went through life upon the CHESTERFIELD principle, by which he first attracted the notice of JAMES the First, and was on that account considered as the proper person to accompany Prince CHARLES, afterwards CHARLES the First, to SPAIN, on his love embassy to the Infanta; who ridiculed DRYDEN in the Rehearsal; who, when he went to conduct the Princess HENRIETTA MARIA, the king's intended consort, had the presumption to pay his addresses to the Queen Dowager of FRANCE; and, being thwarted in his views, engaged his sovereign by way of revenge, in a war with that kingdom, and who was stabbed

by a discontented half-pay lieutenant at PORTSMOUTH, was born at BROOKSBY. It has been said of him that he lived a profligate and died a beggar, and as he deserved to have no friend while he lived, he left none to lament his death.

CAVE, a very eminent divine, who left behind him many excellent works, was born at PICKWELL. COTES, a great mathematician, and Plumian professor of astronomy and experimental philosophy at CAMBRIDGE, was a native of BURBAGE. He wrote some valuable things, and at the request of Dr. BENTLY published a second edition of NEWTON'S *Principia*, in which he introduced all the improvements of that great man, and wrote a valuable preface himself. BEVERIDGE, a learned divine and eminent prelate, was born at BARROW.. His writings were all religious, but promulgated in such forms and language as are best calculated to promote the happiness of social life. LILLY, the famous astrologer, was a native of DISEWORTH. In the early part of the seventeenth century, at which time he cut a most conspicuous figure, credulity seems to have reigned uncontrouled, and LILLY was its prime minister. No party was exempt from this insuperable folly; CHARLES the First consulted him twice concerning his escape. The parliament gave him a pension of an hundred pounds, and employed him to encourage their soldiers by his predictions. He read public lectures on Christian astrology, as he called it, and received rewards from the King of SWEDEN for having made honourable mention of that prince in his almanack. He plainly, however, knew but little of his own fortune, which is always the case, for he was at one time imprisoned for reflecting on the parliament, and at another for giving judgment upon stolen goods. His almanack has since his death produced an ample fortune to the representatives of his heir, who was a taylor, and whom, having no son, he adopted.

LATIMER, Bishop of WORCESTER, whose history every body knows; who was at first a protestant, afterwards a violent papist, and at length converted, and became a more zealous and determined protestant than ever, and who might probably have recanted again, so little to be relied on is the mind of man when it can admit such violent change of disposition, had not MARY on her accession to the throne dragged him to the stake before he had time for reflection. I shall con-

clude this account of remarkable characters, born in LEICESTERSHIRE, with that most extraordinary and most unfortunate creature Lady JANE GRAY, the memory of whose hard and unmerited fate can never fail to wrest a tear from every eye, and a sigh from every heart blest with sympathy and sensibility. To her exquisite beauty and unparallelled accomplishments she owed her ruin. Not in this case that she is to be compared with the Queen of SCOTS, which she has been by some, for she was as good as she was wise and as innocent as she was beautiful.

Nothing is better known than that, on account of her near relation to the blood-royal, the ambitious NORTHUMBERLAND procured her marriage with his son Lord GUILDFORD DUDLEY; and, in order to accomplish his daring project of raising her to the throne, prevailed upon EDWARD the Sixth, during his declining health, to appoint her his heiress and successor, in consequence of which, both against her inclination and consent she was proclaimed Queen according to the usual formalities. The result is evident: the insatiate MARY, with certainly a better claim, for she was the eldest daughter of HENRY the Eighth, soon silenced the clamour, seized and sacrificed this harmless and devoted victim, not without some struggle however to secure her own safety, for never did any thing excite more general regret, nor is there a circumstance in the bulk of historic annals more celebrated or more lamented. The reign of this young creature, who never desired more than to enjoy the blessings of private life, in which sphere she would have shone a brilliant example to her sex, was no more than nine days, and this circumstance begat the proverb of "a nine days wonder."

Leicester-Place,

Jan. 6, 1802.

Yours most truly,

C. DIBDIN.

	Bilsdon	Bosworth	Harborough	Hinkley	Kegworth	Leicester	Loughborough	Lutterworth	Melton Mowbray	Mount Sorrel	London
Sat. Ashby-de-la-Zouch to	26	15	31	22	12	17	12	29	22	16	121
Bilsdon to		30	10	23	26	9	19	22	15	15	93
Wed. Bosworth to			29	7	27	21	27	17	36	31	106
Tues. Harborough to				25	32	15	26	13	21	22	85
Mon. Hinkley to					34	14	25	12	29	21	99
Kegworth to						17	6	29	18	10	114
Sat. Leicester to							12	13	15	7	96
Th. Loughborough to								25	12	4	108
Tu. Lutterworth to									20	25	88
Tu. Melton Mowbray to										12	104
Mon. Mount Sorrel to											104

LEICESTERSHIRE.

There is no Corporation Town in this county but LEICESTER, and the four members it returns to parliament, are two for that city, and two for the county. The market towns have their days placed before them.

LETTER LVII.

DERBYSHIRE.

THOMAS KING, Esq.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

I COME now to resume my description of DERBYSHIRE, and shall briefly notice the PEAK, or rather the Peaks, for all those beautiful and diversified hills and vallies that lie about MATLOCK, TIDESWELL, MIDDLETON DALE, and that neighbourhood, are called the LOW PEAK; and all that range of moors from SHEFFIELD to CASTLETON, and onwards almost to STOCKPORT, the HIGH PEAK; the first is the most rich and beautiful, the other the most bold and grand. Not that I can consent to allow DERBYSHIRE, with all its astonishing succession of novel and enchanting objects, to match with WESTMORELAND and CUMBERLAND. The views on either PEAK are singularly romantic, and the shapes of hills, crags, shrubs, sweeps, sudden falls, and bold heights, perpetually meet the eye in gratifying form and endless variety; but it is a picture of pieces, not an effect produced by a few immense objects; and, as a deduction of at least one fourth in point of picturesque advantage, the grand feature, water, would be almost wholly unknown, were it not that the Dove here and there glides among the bases of the rugged hills, in majestic state. This is an advantage I grant, but, say the most of them, rivers can never produce the sublime and solemn grandeur of lakes.

It must be allowed, however, that, where the objects are marked with more stupendous magnitude, by being longer in sight, there is a greater sameness. For instance, BEN LOMOND is seen in the same position for many miles together, whereas MAM TOR is presently obscured by an infinite variety of succeeding hills, that seem to meet and pass you in all directions; and thus the traveller who is content with many and various prospects will be best satisfied with the views in DERBYSHIRE. For my own part, I was delighted with the PEAK; this delight changed into admiration when I saw WESTMORELAND; this encreased to astonishment when I saw CUMBERLAND; but they all yielded to the enthusiastic wonder with which I beheld the mountains that surround Loch Lomond, the Ochil Hills, and those other stupendous piles of towering heights which lead to the Highlands. All these I shall more particularly describe in their places: at present I shall content myself with a few words on DERBYSHIRE.

I apprehend that nothing in the Highlands of SCOTLAND can be more barren than the wildest part of the PEAK country, for there is not a bush to be seen, and the mountains are entirely barren. The ascents and declivities are much more tremendous to a traveller than those of the other places I have mentioned; for, as in CORNWALL and DEVONSHIRE, so in DERBYSHIRE, there is no qualification but you ascend to the greatest heights, and fall into the lowest bottoms by the road itself; whereas in WESTMORELAND, CUMBERLAND, and SCOTLAND, the roads are formed on the sides of the mountains, and therefore, though you command the most extensive prospects, you travel in no apprehension, because the ascents and descents are longer and more gradual, and, from the solid texture of the rocks, the roads are firmer, and consequently more safe.

The superiority, however, boasted by DERBYSHIRE, consists of its mines, which, like those in CORNWALL, are numerous and productive. The lead works are very valuable. There is an entrance to the mine like the mouth of a well, and for the purpose of drawing up the ore, a large wheel, or shaft, is worked by horses in a round wooden building, called a cupola, that joins a shed built over the mine. The earth, when drawn up, appears like heaps of dirt and stones mixed together, which women and children wash in tubs, searching with great

labour for the ore, which is laid by in parcels according to its different value. On the hills near WIRKSWORTH there are the greatest number of mines, many of which yield copper as well as lead.

Of the seven wonders of the PEAK, as they are called, so much has been said and is known, that I the less regret the impossibility from my plan of going into the subject at large. The first wonder is CHATSWORTH-HOUSE, if that can be called a wonder of nature that was fabricated by art. It is certainly a most extraordinary and magnificent structure, and the astonishing number of objects in and about so challenge admiration, that though I cannot condescend to imitate the hyperbolical language of COTTON, who says:

> The pictures, sculptures, carvings, graving, gilding,
> Would be as long describing as in building,

Yet it is but the truth to say that this palace, which was built by WILLIAM the first Earl of DEVONSHIRE, and has undergone at various times most noble alterations and improvements, is a splendid proof of the spirit and taste of that illustrious family, and excites no expectation of pleasure but it abundantly gratifies.

MAM-TOR is considered as the second wonder; why, I cannot really understand, for as to its height it is not above one third of SKIDDAW; and, if it is from its second appellation of the shivering mountain, that circumstance is not so great a phœnomenon as is pretended, for there are many instances of hills that moulder away at their summits and sides, in consequence of the influence of the different seasons on the particular quality of their strata. The fact in relation to MAM-TOR is no more than this. The stratum upon the face of this mountain is composed of shale and gritstone; and, after long frosts, heavy gales of wind, a long continuance of rain, and other natural causes, the shale is decomposed, which it is very subject to be by the action of the atmosphere, and large quantities of it leave the original stratum, and repose in the valley. A foreigner says in his account of MAM-TOR " I understand, but I cannot declare it upon my

"own authority, that this mountain has been thundering down large stones in "great plenty time out of mind, and yet it has never diminished in its size." For my own part I have seen it three times and once sketched its form, but I never found it in a thundering humour. It has a purplish appearance towards the summit, which indicates something of the circumstance, but I have no doubt but that report which can make a mountain of a mole-hill, has not in this instance gone out of its way.

Eden-Hole is the third wonder. Originally it was nothing more than a chasm in the earth; but a farmer, having lost two fat oxen that fell into it, he surrounded it with a stone wall. If a stone as large as a man can lift be thrown into this hole, as soon as it strikes the rock it will rebound from side to side, the sound gradually decreasing for a considerable time till it ends in a murmur. Mr. Cotton, who seems determined that truth if possible should be the basis of his poems, describes the depth to be something more than half a mile; but he cannot tell how much more, and therefore like the philosopher, he has left truth at the bottom.

The fourth wonder is Buxton-Wells, and consists of a cold well, situated within six feet of a hot well; but there is certainly nothing wonderful in that, I have already related the same of two springs at Canterbury. It appears to me a much greater wonder that so many people meet together in the midst of summer in a a place without the least shelter from the sun, which must lie intensely hot upon that rocky soil, especially as they cannot as at Brighton jump into the sea to cool themselves. The fifth wonder is Tides-Well, which is a spring that ebbs and flows, and this will happen twice or thrice in an hour at particular seasons. The cause of this is variously explained by different authors, but not one has pretended to pass his arguments for truth. It is a very extraordinary phœnomenon.

Pool's-Hole, about half a mile from Buxton, is the sixth wonder. The entrance to this extraordinary cave is at the foot of a mountain, called Cortmoss, and it is so low that those who have sufficient curiosity to explore it enter upon their hands and knees; after which it opens into a prodigious height not unlike

the roof of a cathedral, and therefore like WOKEY-HOLE in SOMERSETSHIRE; but soon after this the roof is so very high as not to be discernable. On the right is a hollow cavern called POOL'S-CHAMBER, and further on you see the representation of most curious fret-work, and in other places the figures of a man, a lion, and a dog, and many other animals, which a pregnant fancy readily suggests. Advancing further you come to what is called the Pillar of MARY Queen of Scots; and, beyond this, is a steep ascent about a quarter of a mile high, which terminates in a hollow called the Needle's Eye, in which when your guide places his candle, it represents a star in the firmament. Near the pillar it is usual to fire a pistol, the report of which so resounds, that it seems almost as loud as a cannon. POOL, who is supposed originally to have inhabited this place, you are informed was a notorious thief. Others think he was a hermit. At any rate they will have it that some man of that name made use of this place, for some reason or other, as an asylum, though they cannot give a single reason upon which to hitch a conjecture how this story came to be propagated.

PEAKE'S-HOLE is the last wonder. It is about a mile from CASTLETON, and consists of an immense cavern. Its entrance is at the bottom of a rock, on which stands the castle from which the town took its name. On either side as you advance towards the mouth of this gulph you very plainly discern the manner in which the veins of lead ore insinuate themselves into the rock, which is entirely limestone composed of marine materials. When you are immediately in the opening you will be pleased at the wonderful order in which the strata are arranged for their general support, forming altogether upon the best principles of masonry a complete arch, the only constructed form which could possibly keep this immense weight from falling in and crushing every thing under it.

At the entrance of this cavern are little sheds and a kind of rope walk, where the poor inhabitants carry on a manufactory for small cord, twine, and other similar articles. The span of the arch is a hundred and twenty feet, and its height from the left abutment about seventy. In the first cavern, which is about a hundred and eighty feet, you are shewn stalactites, which you are told by your guide are petrified waters; but it is no more than an accumulation of calcareous

earth, with which the water, in filtering through the stratum, is loaded, for each drop upon dissipating leaves behind it a portion of the earth with which it is saturated, and at length, by attraction, a body is gathered together, and becomes spar in the appearance of innumerable icicles.

Being by this time furnished with candles, you proceed through various narrow passages, till you come to a hole above your head, shaped something like a bell. You are there shewn a line on the side of the rock, up to which the water rises in heavy rains. Soon after this you arrive at the first water, on which there is a boat, in resemblance something like a tea-tray. You are directed to lie down in the boat, and in that position, without the smallest danger, you are conducted through an aperture just sufficient for the boat to pass, and then landed in a cavern much more stupendous than the first. It is about two hundred and fifty feet by two hundred. From this cavern you get to a smaller water, over which you are conducted, and you presently come to an aperture, where the water is perpetually filtering, and this place the guide calls, not unpoetically, KOGER RAIN's house. From thence you continue to what is called the chancel, where you are suddenly surprised by several voices from a gallery above, at the height of sixty feet. The numberless reflections of the lights, the effect of the echoes, which turn singers and join in the concert, have altogether a most romantic and extraordinary effect, and might fill the head of a lover or an adventurer with an idea that some of the scenes in the Arabian Nights Entertainments were realized in PEAKE's HOLE.

From the chancel you proceed to a fissure called the Devil's Cellar; from thence you descend a hundred and fifty feet, and arrive at the half-way house. Passing on, you proceed through three arches by the side of a small stream, which you cross, when the roof assumes a more regular segment of a circle, and presently afterwards the form of a bell, as before, but much larger, and is from that called TOM OF LINCOLN. There is no great novelty afterwards. Your return to day-light, which has a most astonishing effect, is, if you think proper, accompanied with what the miners call a blast, which adds to the wonder, and staggers the senses a little more.

There is scarcely any part of DERBYSHIRE, at least this division of it, that has not something worthy to be described, MATLOCK is, on all sides, a beautifully romantic spot. The prodigious variety of effects exhibited by the chalky cliffs, stained by marle and skirted by trees, are every where delightful, and the rapid course of the noisy Derwent suits the peculiar singularity of this interesting scene. It is wonderful to me that a choice is not made of situations like this for assemblies of bathers, if there must be such. The wild nature of MATLOCK is charming, and may be described with pleasure. What is there to describe at BUXTON but chalk walls, a circus, and two spar shops? MATLOCK is however, I believe, less frequented, and yet better than it was formerly. The ordinary was then three shillings a day for three meals and tea in the afternoon. On April the twenty-sixth, 1800 I paid about fourteen shillings for some stinking trout and a raw beef steak.

As the towns, except DERBY, and one or two others, are perhaps more ancient than in many other counties, and for that very reason of less note at present, I shall not of course have much to remark of them. DERBY is a rich and populous town. It is situated on the western bank of the Derwent. It is twenty-four miles from LEICESTER, fifty-six from NORTHAMPTON, eighty-seven from OXFORD, thirty-seven from COVENTRY, and a hundred and twenty-three from LONDON. There is a monastery, and there are other places which denote its great antiquity. The first mill that was built in the kingdom for making organzine, or thrown silk, is at a small distance from DERBY. I was told, when I saw it fourteen years ago, that it was erected in 1734, by Sir THOMAS LAMBE, an alderman of LONDON, who, at the hazard of his life, brought the design from ITALY.

This machine was considered of such importance by the legislature, that, at the expiration of the patent, which Sir THOMAS had obtained for fourteen years, he was granted fourteen thousand pounds for the hazard he had run and the expences he had incurred, and that a model might be taken of the mill, which is now kept in the Record Office of the Tower. The concern, however, being sold at his death, many models were taken of it and the kingdom is certainly more properly benefited by this diffusion of his ingenuity than while the discovery continued

a monopoly. By every turn of the water-wheel of this mill, which revolves three times in a minute, seventy-three thousand seven hundred and twenty-six yards of silk are twisted. Any single wheel or movement of this complicated machine may be stopped without impeding the rest, and the whole is governed by one regulator.

On the twenty-sixth of April I left DERBY, dined, as I have already related, at MATLOCK, and slept at CHESTERFIELD. About four miles on the road a trifling accident happened to the carriage, and we took shelter from a shower in a very homely cottage. From the window, just before the rain cleared up, I took the view of a most beautiful piece of water, which I cannot, however, understand to be either the Derwent or the Dove, and unfortunately the poor people where we were sheltered could give me no information; Lord SCARSDALE's magnificent mansion scarcely discernable on the opposite side, and the various hills formed into two receding masses by the rain, which melted into the sky, for a distance. I took also a sketch of the approach to WIRKSWORTH, and should have painted a picture from it, but that I was much more struck with a romantic effect about two miles on this side MATLOCK, which, as it turned out a very fine afternoon, will serve to shew what the general character of the views in the LOWER PEAK are. Both that and the view opposite Lord SCARSDALE's will come in here.

CHESTERFIELD is a very busy town. They prepare there the iron for the finishers of SHEFFIELD, and the market is a very considerable one, being well supplied with corn, lead, malt, leather, stockings, blankets, and bedding, in all which commodities the inhabitants carry on a considerable trade not only with the neighbouring towns, the PEAK, CHESTER, MANCHESTER, and LIVERPOOL, but with YORKSHIRE, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE, LINCOLNSHIRE, LEICESTERSHIRE, and LONDON. The market-place is spacious, and the church is handsome, but the spire being built with wood and covered with lead, is warped and twisted by the weather out of its perpendicular direction.

Though perhaps no plants are peculiar to DERBYSHIRE, there are some few which arrive to much greater perfection there than any where else. One of the

latter description is the common round leaved garden scurvy grass, *cochlearia hortensis.* This plant has many medicinal uses. The active matter of it is extracted by maceration, both in watery and spirituous menstrua. Its principal virtue, however, resides in an essential oil, seperated by distillation with water, but very volatile, subtle, and penetrating, even though it is so ponderous as to sink in water. This plant is well called scurvy grass, but it is not to be imagined from thence that it is universal in that complaint, which is so various as to arise from different causes, and therefore requires different remedies; on the contrary, it is hurtful where the scurvy is attended with a redness in the face, feverish heats, and similar symptoms; but it is of great use in what is called by SYDENHAM the scorbutic rheumatism. A species of this plant, called also Scotch scurvy grass, has very improperly the title given to it of *soldanel,* which name is also erroneously given to some of the bind weeds. There is but one species of *soldanel,* and that grows wild no where but on the ALPS.

Club moss, *muscus terrestris repens,* is found plentifully on the PEAK. It creeps upon the earth astonishingly, and takes root by means of fibres, that proceed from the different branches. It has small heads, collected together something like a club, and under each of the scales are bivolved capsulæ, which, when ripe, throw out a dust as fine as the flour of brimstone, which, in the flame of a candle, flashes like gunpowder. Ladies' mantle, *Achimilla,* which is very common in the ALPS and the PYRENEAN mountains, is to be found plentifully on the PEAK. This plant has been considered as possessing virtues as a styptic. Golden dock is well known, so is the pansy, which, in my opinion, though an humble, is yet a most charming flower, especially as the varieties, in point of colour, though all beautiful like those of the butterfly they represent, are beyond calculation. In DERBYSHIRE this plant grows very large, and the fine purple leaves look like an imperial velvet. One sort is marked with nothing more than all the gradations of yellow.

Giant throat wort, *Trachelium majus belgarum.* There is but one species of this plant. It is common in ITALY, but I believe grows no where in this country but in DERBYSHIRE. The Philosophical Transactions contain an account in what

way the milk extracted from this plant is distinct from the purple or wild lettuce, both which curdle, dry, and get hard, in which case the powder so procured from throat wort will burn like rosin. These plants and bilberries, which grow here to great perfection, are all that it will be material to notice in DERBYSHIRE.

The celebrated characters in DERBYSHIRE are few in number, and not very remarkable as to extraordinary merit. CHARLES BLOUNT, Earl of DEVONSHIRE, famous for his valiant conduct against the Spaniards and the Irish, in the reigns of ELIZABETH and JAMES the First, was a native of DERBYSHIRE; and so was FITZHERBERT, the great lawyer, and author of that useful work, *De Naturæ Brevium*, of the nature of writs. Sir ROBERT CURSON, whose great valour, both at home and abroad, was rewarded by HENRY the Seventh and the Emperor MAXIMILIAN. Sir AUSTIN COCKAINE, a well known poet in the reigns of CHARLES the First and CHARLES the Second, and AGARD, a learned antiquarian; who wrote a work to explain the Doomsday Book; all these were natives of this county. I shall bring up my account with FLAMSTEAD, the celebrated astronomer, who was born at DERBY. He published a catalogue of the fixed stars, and went very largely and advantageously into his subject; nor were his speculations more calculated for the delight than for the benefit of mankind; for, among other good effects of his discoveries, he manifested by them the falsity of astrology, and the ignorance of all those who pretend to it, a thing the more necessary, because at that time LILLY carried his absurd reputation with so high a hand, and on this account there is no better trait in the conduct of CHARLES the Second than the encouragement he gave to FLAMSTEAD.

Leicester-Place. Your's sincerely,

Jan. 8, 1802. C. DIBDIN.

	Bakewell	Buxton	Chapel-en-Frith	Chesterfield	Derby	Dronfield	Matlock	Tideswell	Wirksworth	London
Sat. Ashburn to	15	20	34	26	13	32	17	21	9	138
Mon. Bakewell to		11	16	13	25	19	9	6	15	151
Buxton to			15	24	33	28	20	7	18	157
Th. Chapel-en-Frith to				27	41	27	25	10	31	165
Sat. Chesterfield to					24	6	16	17	15	148
Frid. Derby to						31	16	31	10	125
Dronfield to							16	23	21	156
Matlock to								15	6	142
Wed. Tideswell to									21	158
Tues. Wirksworth to										1[illegible]8

DERBYSHIRE.

This county like HUNTINGDONSHIRE and LEICESTERSHIRE sends no more than two members for the county and two for the county-town.

LETTER LVIII.

LANCASHIRE.

THOMAS KING, Esq.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

IT is now perfectly in place that I should finish my account of LANCASHIRE; for, though on my return from SCOTLAND I visited MANCHESTER and shall again speak of it when I come to mention that part of my tour, yet it would be to make the business patch-work were I to detail my remarks. I have already mentioned that I left DERBY and slept at CHESTERFIELD on the twenty-sixth of April; on the next day I arrived at SHEFFIELD, where I remained till the first of May, on which days I passed over the HIGH-PEAK, saw PEAK'S-HOLE, took a sketch of MAM-TOR, dined at CHAPEL-EN-FRITH, and slept at MANCHESTER.

I shall say nothing of SHEFFIELD as a town till I come to speak generally of YORKSHIRE. Upon this visit I found it convulsed with riots, a thing not very uncommon there, for they pique themselves upon being a fine set of what they call faranty fellows, which in English means fellows ripe for all sorts of mischief. I have known something of SHEFFIELD, and I believe could shew how it came formerly to be the nurse of sedition, something tending to which subject I may perhaps hereafter notice, in the mean time I shall content myself with saying that

the daring conduct of the mobs I saw there was a disgrace to a civilized country, and it was fortunate that their old friends the OXFORD Blues, who have been called out to quell riots there more than once, were quartered at the barracks, otherwise instead of insulting the magistrates, one of them a very old man and to my knowledge a most estimable character, I should not have wondered, though it would have comprized their own destruction, if they had set fire to the town.

As I was bound, in the technical phrase, to LIVERPOOL direct, I left MANCHESTER on the second of May, and arrived at the place of my destination in the afternoon. I had seen this extraordinary town only a year before, and yet I could not refrain from noticing with new admiration the astonishing improvements of every description and in all directions. Among other things I visited the Atheneum, which answers the purpose of the Tontine at GLASGOW, but it is by no means so large. The spirit with which the plan was carried on by subscription does great credit to the place. The news room is fifty-one feet by fifty except a portion taken off on each side, which makes the center a recess in which it yields to the Tontine at GLASGOW, where the recess is circular and takes in the whole dimensions. The library is about fifty-feet by thirty, and there is besides a museum for the reception of natural curiosities, which will no doubt be abundantly supplied by captains of ships, who will naturally be proud to contribute gratuitously to the promotion of such an establishment, and at the same time to perpetuate their own exploits.

I continued at LIVERPOOL till the nineteenth of May, when I set out for WIGAN, taking with me the first account that I had heard of the attempt on the life of his Majesty at the theatre. I instantly wrote what my heart dictated on the subject, which I believe appeared in all the LONDON news-papers. I take this opportunity of remarking that there never was so proud a moment for this country. There was no division, nor difference of opinion nor feeling in the breast of a single individual. All were actuated by one noble impulse, one generous sentiment; every heart heaved an involuntary thanksgiving to Providence for the restoration of our common father; and, whenever I repeated in my song of the Auctioneer, "set "down loyalty to the whole nation," it operated like electricity.

WIGAN is a neat well built town, and has a stately church, which is largely endowed, the rector among other immunities being lord of the manor. WIGAN does a great deal of business. Its commodities are different sorts of bedding. There are also some iron works, and there are many braziers, pewterers, dyers and weavers. The vicinity is full of gentlemens' seats, and the whole country around it wears an appearance of industry and opulence, a character indeed that pervades almost the whole of this county. The kennel, or candle coal business, in which they turned this extraordinary fossil to so many curious uses, is now at an end. Some say the art is lost but the fact is as I was informed by an intelligent gentleman that none of the coal with the right texture to be worked upon is now to be found. I bought some boxes at LIVERPOOL which were said to be genuine, but he convinced me that there was not the least resemblance*.

I have already spoken of PRESTON, and generally of LANCASTER. It nowremains to conduct my readers over the sands to that part of the lakes which are situated in that county, and put them in the road to those objects on which I mean more particularly to speak when, in the next letter, I bring up my account of WESTMORELAND. Previous to this, however, I shall notice a remarkable cave about five miles from LANCASTER called DUNALD MILL-HOLE. A brook nearly as large as the New River, after turning a corn-mill at the entrance of the cave, runs into its mouth by several beautiful cascades, continues its course two miles under a large mountain, and at last makes its appearance again near a village called CARNFORD, in the road to KENDAL. This cave is described as composed of vaults and fissures, exactly in common with every thing of a similar nature, the constant accompa-

* It was once such a fashion to make toys and trifles out of this coal, that ladies and gentlemen had lathes and other machines, and actually learnt the business. I was told that a nobleman had a whole table set of utensils made out of it, and that one day having invited a number of strangers to dine with him, and previously concerted measures with his servant, he repeatedly ordered coals to be put on the fire. No attention was paid to his commands, and he pretended to be in a passion which appeared so to encrease that he was at last quite exasperated. At this moment he started up and threw the plates, the dishes and the whole dinner equipage behind the fire. The guests who had been astonished at this torrent of passion with which their host had apparently been led away, were ten times more so when they began to see the plates blazing like so many candles, and the lord in a violent laugh that his joke had taken so well.

nyment of this cataract seems to be the only trait of novelty in the business; which, continually either falling into hollows or gushing up precipices to find its level, and all this underground, must certainly create very singular sensations in the minds of those who think proper to explore so extraordinary a curiosity.

The richest and most beautiful kind of landscape accompanies travellers in their way over the sands to the lakes, especially if they occasionally turn out of the road for the purpose. One of the most striking perhaps, because it is the first effect of that pleasure they are in anxious expectation of, is in the road to HORNBY. It looks over LONSDALE VALE, as it is called. In the back ground are some bold mountains with INGLEBOROUGH in the extreme distance. The valley is rich, and the Lune, in the language of GRAY, "serpentizes through it for many a mile." His concluding remark is, that every feature which constitutes a perfect landscape of the extensive sort is there not only boldly marked but also in its best position. This landscape is certainly very beautiful but I cannot think it boasts this unqualified superiority.

The ride over the sands, which is nine miles, is certainly rich and interesting, a bold shore forming either bays, or peninsulas; vallies bounded by hanging woods, cots, farms, villages, churches and castles, terminated with mountains behind mountains, continually vary the prospect, INGLEBOROUGH, like BEN LOMOND, all the time appearing lord of the scene. These varieties are occasioned by the abrupt appearance of HEYSHAM Point, and the village which hangs on its side, to WARTON Crag, on which appear the ruins of a beacon, and other promontories, some bold, some gradual, among which are CASTLESTEADS and SILVERDALE NAB, and all these relieved by a consideration of the sands themselves, an object certainly to a contemplative mind full of sublime matter for reflection, especially the recollection that the track the traveller is then exploring had been but a few hours before covered with an immense body of water, and that in a few hours after it will return to the same state.

After passing on in this manner through a variety of romantic situations, the traveller crosses the Eau, which though it appears a tremendous and dangerous piece of water is shallow and perfectly safe. CARTMEL next appears, and soon after he explores some rocky fields, and groves, till he arrives at CARK-HALL, and at the top of a hill opens a fine view of FURNESS. Next ULVERSTON-HALL attracts the sight. CONISHEAD now rises beautifully and exhibits a pyramid of trees. At the bottom of a hanging wood stands the priory, and BARDSEA appears in a similar situation. Upon the promontory of FURNESS are to be seen the ruins of the abbey, which was founded by STEPHEN before he was king. ULVERSTON is a neat town, and indeed one of the most extordinary circumstances attending this romantic country is that the different towns appear in such a civilized state. Near ULVERSTON, at a place called WHITRIGS, are the largest iron mines in ENGLAND. The ore is found in a stratum of limestone intermixed with spars and quartz, which last admits of a high polish; but at a place called ADGARLY the richest ore is found, and in immense quantities.

GLEASTON is a village in FURNESS. It is remarkable for its castle, which became forfeited to the crown when the Duke of SUFFOLK was beheaded in the reign of Queen MARY. It now belongs to the LOWTHERS a well-known family in this corner of the kingdom. HAWKSHEAD is a town in FURNESS, which district is a distinct and separate part of the county, and looks upon the mass like a usurpation of part both of WESTMORELAND and CUMBERLAND. HAWKSHEAD by this encroachment is placed on the west side of Windermere, part of which lake is thus in LANCASTER, and the whole of Coniston Lake, the situation and some particulars of which I shall now describe.

CONISTON LAKE is eight miles, by PENNY-BRIDGE or by LEWICK, both excellent roads from ULVERSTON. It is almost surrounded or locked by lofty hills or fells and it is rendered peculiarly translucent by the bases of these which are dusky and frowning. Many stations are pointed out as proper opportunities to take a view of this lake and the objects that surround it, and all of them have charming effects, particularly as the shores are handsomely indented, and present a great variety of novel and interesting forms according to the change of situation. The

length of the lake is six miles, and the breadth almost three quarters of a mile; so that the effects are more beautiful than grand, and more calculated for a finished picture than a sublime effect. It is, however, a lake, and there is an infinite difference between a lake and a river, and those who are content with the most charming tracts of natural simplicity, sweetly and exquisitely pourtrayed, will never find it greater perfection.

I regret very much that I cannot afford myself room to describe these enchanting scenes more minutely. I shall, however, steal as much space as possible when I speak of WESTMORELAND and CUMBERLAND. In the mean time, I am unwillingly compelled to leave LANCASTER without any further notice than a brief account of its botanical productions and its celebrated characters.

The plants that grow wild in LANCASHIRE are very inconsiderable, either in number or quality. The minor tway-blade, the jagged flea-bane, prickly samphire, sea buglos, crane's bill, wild cherry or merry tree, small sea scurvy-grass, and hare's tail rush, though they are varieties of plants which I have already mentioned, partake of the same nature, and therefore a fresh account of them would amount to little more than repetition. There is some novelty in the jagged yellow rocket, which I believe is natively a plant of the ISLE OF MAN, and the purple goat's beard, according to the different accounts, has something curious in it; but I believe those are mistaken who place it as a rosemary, for it seems rather to be a *tragopogon*, of which there are three sorts. One is cultivated as an esculent, the other as an ornament to the flower garden; and this last, which is vulgarly called go to bed at noon, on account of its flowers, which shut up in the middle of the day, though handsome, is no more than a weed.

The account of celebrated characters in LANCASHIRE must necessarily be short. HUGH OF MANCHESTER, a Franciscan friar, who combated fanatacism, to which he was induced by detecting an impostor who pretended to have been blind, and to have received his sight at the tomb of HENRY the Third, and who, by his indefatigable endeavours, worthily served the cause of reason, was born at MANCHESTER. Sir WILLIAM MOLYNEAUX, celebrated for the gallantry of his conduct at FLODDEN-

FIELD, for which HENRY the Eighth honoured him with a letter of thanks, was a LANCASHIRE man. So it is reported was Fox the Quaker, but I cannot make up my mind to an implicit belief of this, which is indeed a matter of no consequence. Many who have neither capacity nor inclination to examine the incomparable productions of HOMER, have yet been solicitous to no purpose to find out in which of the seven contending towns he was born.* Whether Fox was born in LANCASHIRE or not, it was in that county he established his sect of *Trembleurs*, as the French call them.

BYROM, a poet of more merit than celebrity, of which description I am afraid there are too many in the world, for it too often happens that those who deserve fame cannot stoop to the terms on which it is generally acquired, was born at MANCHESTER. To those who were unacquainted with the circumstance, it will, as far at the circle of this information goes, be no improper tribute to his merit to say that he wrote the pastoral ballad beginning, "My time, oh ye muses," inserted in the eighth volume of the Spectator, and of which ADDISON seems to, have had a better opinion than GOLDSMITH, who,. with all his strength of genius, acquaintance with nature, and beauty of versification, had sometimes to my knowledge this blind side. His pretensions to happiness, though perhaps rather of an old fashioned kind, were, in the contemplation of a rational creature, perfectly correct; for he was a blameless character, doated upon an amiable wife, and retired from noise and frivolity to enjoy the society of a few valuable friends, and a family endeared to him by all the ties of gratitude and love. He wrote two or three other articles in the Spectator, several Epigrams, a Poem on Enthusiasm, and another on the Immortality of the Soul, and no doubt other things, in the publication of which, as he disdained to purchase notoriety with adulation, he wisely contented himself with the admiration of the select and the judicious.

* The birth of HOMER has begot more contention in FRANCE than I believe any where else, and the variety of sallies in *Pieces de Vaudvilles*, *Proverbes Dramatiques*, and other productions of that light and whimsical nature, at one time made the subject universal: but the most extravagant thing that appeared was the production of a French painter, who drew a picture with seven towns in the distance, to which the figure of HOMER, placed in the foreground, was pointing. From the mouth of this figure issued a torrent, while many of the eminent writers, ancient as well as modern, surrounded him with vessels, with a view that each might catch an inspiring portion of this Hypocrene.

The celebrated BOOTH, the original Cato in ADDISON'S tragedy, of whom I have spoken at length in my *History of the Stage,* was born near WARRINGTON. With this actor, who was one of those that have proved, in spight of pitiable ignorance and contemptible pride, that a member of a theatre may be a man of honour and a perfect gentleman, I shall conclude my account of LANCASHIRE. I might have enlarged on that idea, had I not considered that I was writing this letter to you, and therefore might be suspected of trying my hand at a resemblance. If I had any such thing in contemplation, my best way to have my opinion confirmed is to leave the question with the public.

I am, my dear friend,

Leicester-Place, very sincerely yours,

Jan. 10, 1802. C. DIBDIN.

	Bolton	Chorley	Clithero	Coln	Garstang	Hornby	Lancaster	Liverpool	Manchester	Newton	Ormskirk	Prescot	Preston	Rochdele	Warrington	Wigan	London
Mond. Blackburn to	17	14	17	21	26	46	35	45	21	27	28	39	14	12	35	21	205
Mond. Bolton to		12	30	24	28	52	26	43	28	13	17	24	30	12	18	11	196
Tues. Chorley to			29	29	21	39	30	29	24	17	19	23	9	24	22	10	206
† Sat. Clithero to				13	27	25	28	67	31	43	38	45	20	21	41	27	215
Wed. Coln to					39	38	41	59	28	46	50	59	28	32	51	34	216
Thurs. Garstang to						20	11	42	44	37	29	42	11	44	56	29	227
Hornby to							9	64	97	55	49	60	31	58	49	36	248
* † Sat. Lancaster to								55	55	50	40	51	22	49	51	38	236
* † Sat. Liverpool to									36	22	13	7	32	43	18	22	201
Sat. Manchester to										23	32	28	31	13	18	21	182
† Newton to											16	10	23	24	5	7	189
Tues. Ormskirk to												19	18	31	21	9	209
Tues. Prescot to													29	36	10	13	194
* † W. & F. Preston to														27	29	17	214
Tues. Rochdale to															32	22	196
Wed. Warrington to																12	184
* † M. & F. Wigan to																	196

LANCASHIRE.

Table of distances in LANCASHIRE. Corporation towns, each governed by a mayor and aldermen, are marked thus *, boroughs thus †, and the market towns have the days placed before them.

LETTER LIX.

WESTMORELAND.

DR. GARNETT.

MY DEAR SIR,

I AM now prepared to resume my account of WESTMORELAND; and as, on my northern tour in 1800, I visited the Lakes, I shall hasten to perform the very agreeable task of describing the various charms of those delightful objects, which, however, cannot be adequately known but by that intelligence which, by the consent of the senses, the delighted eye conveys to susceptible mind.

I left KENDAL on the twenty-seventh of May, full of apprehension lest the lowering atmosphere should veil from me those beauties which I was taught to expect, and willing to believe were waiting for me. The gloom continued for more than four miles. Soon after it began to dissipate; the clouds became more filmy, the beautiful ultra marine, which they scarcely concealed, seemed to burst from behind them, and in a moment I caught a glimpse of WINDERMERE, and the sober mass of mountains that tower beyond it. Chance always presents you with the best station for a landscape. I was not idle. I took a correct sketch, and made memorandums of the forms and movements of the clouds as they seperated to let in a volume of light upon the silver lake. Never did I love MILTON so

much as at that moment. There is no other appropriate epithet in the world for WINDERMERE.

I put up my drawing, ordered that the carriage might be driven slowly on, and seized my opportunity to make a memorandum whenever a new situation presented a favourable outline, repeating or whistling all the time, Goddess of the silver lake, Sabrina fair, By the rushy fringed bank, in quick succession to ARNE's beautiful melody, as happy as a school-boy on a holiday.* This continued till we got to BOWNESS, where, getting into the summer-house in the garden, which immediately overlooks the lake, I began to revise my scraps, having previously, however, ordered some char. While I was thus employed, I had the honour of a visit from a baronet, who resides at no great distance from thence, and who, in the most cordial manner, invited me with my family to pass some time at his house. The interview was singular. I had no expectation of so agreeable an interreption among mountains and meres, and I most sincerely regretted I was so situated that it was impossible to give myself so sensible a pleasure. I could not, however, get off without a promise to visit this gentleman's hospitable mansion, should I ever again see WESTMORELAND; and I certainly will keep it, should that event take place, of which, however, at present I see no likelihood.

Though there is some presumption in venturing, with so short an experience, at a description of these beautiful regions, yet there is something in seizing that warmth which the charms of novelty inspire. I did not navigate the lake, otherwise I should have found that CURWEN ISLAND, and those other spots which so attract the curiosity of the stranger, possess all those beauties which GILPIN, WEST, HOUSMAN, and other writers, so warmly describe; and, indeed, though it is impossible to be there, and have feeling, without inhaling something superior to gratification at every step, yet mine cannot be a superficial portrait of what it

* It has always given me pleasure on reflection that I have never ceased to hold the poetry and music of Comus in equal admiration. I wrote upon some occasion, speaking of that day and this:

Music's gone by. We've changed our note,
Since ARNE compos'd what MILTON wrote.

would take infinite time and pains to delineate; and, even then, without a faithful conception of these rich and magnificent objects in all seasons and situations, the best pen and the strongest mind would be inadequate to the task of painting ever changing beauty or enumerating never ending variety.

How far a critical examination of all these wonderful particulars might have lent me inspiration to have shewn upon paper what these things are in nature I will not pretend to say, I was not so fortunate to possess the opportunity, I therefore thought my wisest way would be to husband my time; and, since I could not gratify myself either from experience or upon enquiry as to pieces and parts, to make what I could out of outline and effect. For this purpose I considered what upon a general view of nature has the most captivating charms for the mind, and I had no hesitation in pronouncing that it is the grand and sublime sensation that proceeds from a contemplation of forming myriads of pieces into one beautiful whole. This is I should suppose, more difficult in WESTMORELAND than any where else, because its character is beauty more than it is sublimity; and, exercise the eye how you may, the objects are so diversified, so novel and so attracting, taking them singly, that it is extremely difficult to regulate the distracted mind into that quiet soberness, necessary to take in their effect altogether.

There never could be a more propitious day for observation upon the above principle than that which gave me occasion to beg your acceptance of these remarks. The clearing up of the shower, which I have already described, threw broad masses of light and shadow so strong yet so tender over all the scene, that the innumerable shapes, elegant and interesting to astonishment, seemed manifest as it were by concealment, like beauty thinly veiled. Our warm and expressive friend SHELDON had he been there would have ventured one of his bold figures and called it painting in gas. At noon the clouds had disappeared and left only a haze, so thin that it scarcely tinged the atmosphere. The degree I should suppose was scarcely more than a drop of milk in a tumbler of spring water. A few massy clouds hung low in the west as if to hold intelligence with the mountains,

while the objects, as they lay about negligent and graceful and in infinite variety borrowed advantage from the grandeur of this umbrage, and not yet recovered from their morning's ablution, gradually developed all the best effects of prismatic beauty.

About four o'clock we mounted that eminence, near the turnpike, which is considered as the best station for an extensive view of WINDERMERE, and the reason given is that the eye takes in more objects there than at any other situation. My eyes, as SHAKESPEAR says, ache to think on't. I allow that the gratification is infinite; but it is more like witchery than reality. It is a fairy land of which you almost doubt the real existence; and, do the utmost you may, still will the imagination be distracted with spots rather than attracted by grandeur. It is like dashing out a mass of quicksilver into countless globules which distract the eye without enhancing their quantity or their quality. How then to describe this redundancy of beauties? It is beyond the painter's power, for in the first place a bird's-eye view can never be critically described on canvas, nor if it could would the perspective appear natural, for what pencil can delineate trees and rocks with their heads and summits under your feet.

This is one of the instances in which nature mocks at art, and very wisely, for there is such an insatiate thirst for novelty in us, that were there not some barrier placed, we should at every risk attempt to overleap all bounds and madden our minds with researches which are not within the reach of our reason or capacity to understand, much less to enjoy; for as gluttons pamper their appetites and go from one stimulus to another till relish is lost in satiety, so we may indulge this unconquerable propensity till mounted upon the stilts of curiosity we find novelty, wonder, and astonishment, and every thing but gratification.

You are told that upon this spot you must strain your imagination to see what is actually before you, and this is the fact; but is it not evident that this violence to yourself must be infallibly a deduction from your pleasure? Having made this necessary effort you may then count ten islands on the lake, all of bewitching

beauty, which is also perhaps the fact, provided you were near enough to see of what their beauty consists; but, as it is, they are no more than ten large spots on the surface of a most noble and extensive expanse of water, which gives a broken effect and takes off from its majesty and grandeur, and thus it will necessarily happen in every other instance. You are to look at one track which steals off behind a hill like a serpent gliding through a brake. Presently you are to notice a bold crag that seems to grow through the shaggy sides of a mountain, like a rising column of smoke. You are to notice high land here, low land there, presently clumps of trees, then scattered ones, here splendid seats, and there homely cottages, and thousands of other objects which the eye is commanded distinctly to comprehend, when the truth is, they cannot correctly be compressed even within the scope of imagination.

I never was at the top of SKIDDAW, nor of BEN LOMOND. I have however seen that wonderfully extensive view, or rather map from STIRLING-CASTLE; but I confess so little have I of that taste, which in my idea always fails to gratify the curiosity it has excited, that by the time I had learnt out from among the rest of the pins heads that were pointed out to me, BEN LOMOND, BEN LEDI, and a few other microscopic objects, for so they literally are compared to that immense expanse, and admired the serpentine direction of the Forth, which takes twenty miles to perform six, I awoke as from a dream of wonder, but no traces remained that attached to my mind. Ideas a-kin to these struck me as I viewed, perhaps after all with as much pleasure as other people, this astonishing scene near WINDERMERE; which were it compared to language would be found to have less of the simple and sublime than of tropes, figures, metaphors, and allegories, and all the rhetorical flowers of nature.

Winding through the charming domain of the Bishop of LANDAFF, this opinion was confirmed at every step, and having arrived at LOW-WOOD Inn, the fine and commanding effect of the lake from its head gave a new and additional variety to that splendid expanse of water. There had been a slight shower from which the sun was at this moment emerging, and the dazzling river which bid defiance to

the painter, not only gave a new polish to the silver, but embossed it with ten thousand romantic forms*.

After so much truth, beauty, and captivating language have been offered to the public, and all without hyperbole, for indeed exaggeration is impossible, on the infinite and most extraordinary merits of this wonderful lake, which has dictated language to the elegant writers who have described it, it is impossible that I should add a word to what I have already said; because my cursory observations though they were as ardent and as faithful as theirs, cannot possibly take in a survey which leisure and close examination warrant and confirm. I reiterate my observation that in the eye of a painter, WESTMORELAND, near WINDERMERE, by infinite odds has the preference for beauty; that CUMBERLAND carries the ascendancy from every thing I have seen for boldness; and, that the views near the lakes of SCOTLAND boast a pre-eminent character for majesty. Thus SCOTLAND claims the sublime pencil of CLAUDE, CUMBERLAND calls for the saucy touch of SALVATOR ROSA, and WESTMORELAND demands the truth and nature of WILSON, with all the finish of the Flemish School.

We reached AMBLESIDE about six o'clock; and, as the evening was mild and perfectly serene, it was impossible to resist a visit to the cascade in the groves. As Dr. JOHNSON says of the falls of FIERS, Nature seldom gives every thing at once. She however generally gives as much as we ought to be satisfied with, and it is not clear to me that a cascade is always the better object for being replete. The weather had been dry for some days, and therefore neither this cascade nor the tremendous Lowdore, were at what they call their height of perfection, and indeed many places on the side of the road, where I had been bid to expect cataracts, appeared to be no more than so many oozings from the fissures of the rocks; but there was abundantly enough to gratify the most sanguine fancy, and for myself, as I have a knack of cherishing natural happiness wherever I find it,

* When a man says ten-thousand, in descriptions which warm the imagination like this, he means a number beyond calculation, which in this place is a literal fact.

so far from being angry with nature, I was most solemnly grateful to her for having presented these astonishing objects before me, for having provided me with organs to behold them, and a mind to enjoy in wonder and astonishment every thing I saw.

I can easily conceive how this cascade would have appeared had it been precipitated in a broader volume of water, and instead of four seperate sluices, which appearance it put on to me, that effect would have been more bold if all the streams had been incorporated into one ; but in that case it would had concealed a great number of wild romantic forms which were now manifest, and thus what I lost in water I found in crags and shrubs. Besides, if on one side of the account there was no heavy charge of cataracts and inundations, the beauty of the weather and perhaps an escape from a cold on the other, set off as large a balance as I wished for ; in short I returned delighted, and what with my reflections, my walk, and the chat of a gentleman I had known some years before, who found me out at the inn, I ate a hearty supper, and most thankfully retired to sleep.

As I was determined to dine at KESWICK, and knew I had a great deal to do, I was stirring pretty early ; and, while breakfast was preparing I walked to a station where I took a farewell of WINDERMERE as I thought, little imagining I should be again most agreeably surprised with a sight of it. By nine o'clock we arrived at RYDAL-HALL, and posted away of course to see the two cascades in Sir MICHAEL LE FLEMING'S ground, which, thanks to the pains and expence that gentleman has been at, are of very easy access. The first is a direct fall of one sheet of water to the depth of eighty feet. Nothing can be an object of greater surprise ; but if it have a fault it is uniformity. It is enclosed in a nook, and appears equal in every part, like the Lord-Mayor's table-cloth thrown to the extremity of the table before it is unfolded. Yet this may have its merit, for it is novelty in a cascade, which either nature or art generally takes care to break.

The water was so beautifully translucent that, if it had not been for the craggy points that continually opposed its passage, and the thundering roar with which it fell, and which spoke pretty loudly that it was not thin air but an immensely

ponderous body, it would scarcely have been seen. As it was the slaty rocks embossed with tufts of dark warm brown, to which attached an apple green moss, seemed to mock at this feeble attempt to eclipse them; and, indeed, though this extraordinary object did not impel a shout of astonishment, it was impossible to contemplate it without awful attention and mute wonder.

We were now conducted to a small cascade, which is best seen through the window of a summer-house in St. Michael's orchard. Mason, whom I am compelled to think the most charming, as well as the most faithful delineator of nature's beauties, in the face of all that Gray has ever said on the subject, has with the warmth of an admirer, the fancy of a poet, and the judgment of a painter, described this cataract in miniature. Indeed, he has thrown so much of the cunning of an artist into his picture, that though he tells you it is beautiful beyond description, he continues so to describe it that you actually see it before you. As I must have copied Mason to have spoken truth of this rich and delightfully variegated scene, which he truly says, is literally no larger than a scene in a theatre, I have endeavoured to let it speak for itself in the print which will come opposite this page.

At my return from the small cascade, Windermere to my great astonishment stared me full in the face through the great variety of beautiful trees in Rydal-Park. I instinctively, for I like instinct, there is so much certainty in it, took a sketch, which done we quitted this hospitable domain, got into the carriage and off we set all talking together. Our attention was continually taken off as we passed along from various objects by the attractions of others, I think Rydal-Water, the most inconsiderable of all the lakes; or else I had not sufficiently shook off the impression made on me by the cascades, the noise of which certainly continued to ring in my ears. When I came however to perceive the union of Rydal and Grasmere Waters, and to recollect that it was from the top of Grasmere-Hill Mr. Gray saw that peaceful vale which he so beautifully describes, I began to look about me; and, that I might do so with effect I walked up this charming ascent to the very summit, every now and then making memorandums of different effects.

I recollected perfectly GRAY's portrait in words of this delightful valley, and I found it, like every thing from that correct judge of elegant nature, warm and impressive; but GRAY had more the imagination of a poet than the eye of a painter; and even here, in this scene of tranquillity, he goes beyond the few objects which constitute pure simplicity, which is by no means the characteristic of the lakes and their neighbouring ornaments, and proceeds to describe promontories, woods, mountains, rigs, and broken crags; and well he might, for the objects are complex to infinity. From GRAY's description, it has been the fashion to call this the Vale of Peace. I should rather be inclined to call it the Vale of Solemnity; for there is a chearfulness in the very idea of peace, which the sadness and melancholy of this vale would chace away. He has certainly given a catching effect upon paper: Were a painter to take a real view, it would very little resemble his portraiture.

I had not considered this subject long, which I impressed on my memory while it was warm, with a view afterwards to detail it, when, with as much pleasure as sailors hail land, I again hailed water, which I had scarcely discerned, when, between two parting mountains, arose HELVELLYN in all its towering grandeur. The idea of WESTMORELAND now began to fade away, and all the charms of WINDERMERE were changed into objects which mingled pleasure with astonishment. The rocks that have fallen from the brow of HELVELLYN, and now repose in the lake, and others that are balanced like the rock in TARTURUS, and seem ready to start upon a similar expedition, are truly tremendous. The inhabitants say that both HELVELLYN and CACHEDECAM, which are the lords of this immense range of mountains, are higher than SKIDDAW. Extent, however, in effect, takes off from height, which, like every thing else, manifests itself only proportionally, and therefore the innumerable rocks, mountains, promontories, and crags, which one might give a tolerable idea of by supposing the Bay of Biscay agitated by a violent storm, and in one moment petrified, rather confuse the imagination than determine it; and thus any mountain half so high as HELVELLYN or SKIDDAW, with a proportionate base, has a more bold and towering aspect than either of those monstrous masses.

Having already almost trespassed upon CUMBERLAND, I am compelled for the present to take my leave of you and WESTMORELAND, which I shall not, however, completely do till, according to my constant custom, I have spoken of plants, that are either peculiar to that county, or in their nature uncommon, and given some account of its celebrated characters.

Small moss maiden hair, *adiantum*. This particular sort has leaves divided into segments. This seems to be a species of the *adiantum aureum*, or golden maiden hair, which is recommended as a good sudorific, and its infusion, drank hot, is said to be good for pleurisies. The various species of this plant abound with a neutral saponaceous quality, approaching to nitre, and in their mucilage they impart all their virtue to the boiling water. It is sometimes sweetened with liquorice root. It is from the *adiantum verum* that they make what is called capillaire, which is merely a pectoral syrup, flavoured with orange flower water. The maiden hair, through all its species, has more or less the power of assisting the expectoration of phlegm.*

Small bistort or snakeweed, *bistorta minor nostras*. The root of bistort, which is the only part used is drying and binding, and of service in all kinds of fluxes and hæmorrhages. It is said also to resist poison, and the bites and stings of venomous creatures. Eye bright cow wheat is only a variety of this useful plant, on which I have already dwelt at large. The bush wild heart cherry, commonly called the merry tree, *cerasus sylvestris*, is found about ROSGILL, Water gladiole, called *leucoium*, a term that gives a very indefinite explanation, for I apprehend the leucoium is the great snow drop, whereas the gladiole is a flag, which instantly explains it to be a species of the iris. There may be a distinction in the water gladiole, and yet the irises are all fond of water. It is certain that the admission of the bulbous iris into flower gardens, of which it is one of its most beautiful ornaments, has branched into so many varieties that the snow drop seems a-kin to it. Botanists, however, keep them distinct, and therefore it must

* It is said that this plant rose spontaneously out of the ruins of a town in GERMANY, as did the *erisymum vulgare*, or hedge mustard, from the ruins of LONDON.

be given up as a gladiole, which is clearly an iris, or else as a leucosum, which is as certainly a snow drop. The yellow iris is found out by the Scotch as an excellent thing to make common ink.

I find few more than the above plants which I have not already spoken of. Mountain garlick I have fully explained. Hoary dwarf mountain Cistus, with cat's foot leaves, is a variety of the rock rose; the crane's bill, that member of the numerous family of geraniums, the several sorts of stone fern, the grass upon grass, the bastard hellibore, the dwarf juniper, the small lilly of the valley, mountain sorrel, bay-leaved sweet willow, ladies' mantle, bilberry bush, and hare's-tail rush, may in WESTMORELAND be partially varieties of the plants under the same names that I have described, but the difference is not essential enough to go into it minutely, nor, if it were, could I allot space for the discussion.

It may, however, be proper to mention two or three others, which are distinguished by this shade-like quality. Cross wort madder is one of these, which is certainly not a *rubia,* therefore not correctly a madder; besides it has none of the qualities of madder. There is a remote and illegitimate species of this plant, called petty madder, or *crucianella;* and, as the classical name of cross wort is *crusiata,* and not *rubia,* which appellation is generally given it, there can be no doubt but this is the plant. It is said to attenuate and promote expectoration, *Noli me tongere* is a term given to all plants which, when the seeds are ripe in the pod, emit them as it were with the slightest touch. The plant which answers best to this description is the balsam. There is a thing in WESTMORELAND, but it is common to almost every place, called quick in hand, and other odd names. It is a species of the *persicaria.*

The common spignell, which is called *meum* by medical writers. In WESTMORELAND, where it is used by nurses, it is called bad money, or, according to their pronunciation, bawd money. It has been considered as a sovereign medicine in malignant cases. It is also esteemed an attenuant, and has been prescribed for the evacuation of thick humours. It has been given in asthmas, and all obstructions of the lungs. Too large doses of it, as is generally the case with

these medicines which every old woman is permitted to use according to her own fancy, has done much mischief.

MILL, a learned divine in the seventeenth century, was born at SHAPP. He was chaplain in ordinary to CHARLES the Second, and obtained some considerable church preferment; but his principal celebrity consists in having published a most beautiful edition of the Greek Testament. BAINBRIDGE, Archbishop of YORK, and Cardinal Priest of the church of ROME, was a native of HILTON near APPLEBY. He was poisoned at ROME, as it is said by a domestic, whom he had chastised. GILPIN, a most excellent example of a good priest, was born at KENTMERE, and generally known by the title of the *Apostle of the North*. He was seized as a heretic by Queen MARY, but she died before he could be brought to trial. He declined the offer of a bishoprick under ELIZABETH, preferring his rectory of HOUGHTON, where he was beloved almost to adoration, and well he might be, for every Sunday from Michaelmas to Easter he kept open house for his parishioners and their families, and had three tables covered: the first for gentlemen, the second for husbandmen, and the third for labourers. In short his character for benevolence and hospitality was so well known and so universally admired that it was a usual thing to say, "that if a horse were turned loose in any part of the "county, he would soon find his way to the rector of HOUGHTON'S".

Bishop BARLOW, not quite so steady and consistent a character as Rector GILPIN, seems nevertheless to have had a value for the name; for, like JOHNNY GILPIN in the ballad, he was always going further than he intended. In the reign of CHARLES the Second he wrote in favour of toleration in matters of religion; after the discovery of the popish plot he was vehement against the papists; but upon the accession of JAMES the Second, he warmly entered into his cause, and read his declaration of indulgence with great zeal, and wrote some specious reasons, for they were no more, for his adoption of this conduct. At the Revolution he readily voted that the king had abdicated the throne, and was among the forwardest in excluding from their benefices such of the clergy as refused to take the oaths under the new government. GILPIN in his rectory manifested virtues that might adorn the mitre; and BARLOW, in possession of the mitre, acted with a time-

serving tergiversation that would have disgraced a vicar, even the Vicar of Bray. This bishop was born at Langhill, in the parish of Orton.

Barwick, an eminent divine in the seventeenth century, was born at Witherslack. The great complexion of his character was invincible fidelity. During the whole of the civil wars he adhered most faithfully to Charles the First, and never for a moment lost sight of the interest of Charles the Second. He managed the secret correspondence of both these princes. It has been said that he knew of Monk's enterprize; and that, though his activity in the service of Charles the Second during the usurpation exposed him to a long and severe imprisonment, yet he continued to lend assistance to the Restoration. Charles offered him his choice of two bishopricks after his re-establishment; but he contented himself with the deanery of Durham, which was afterwards changed to that of St. Paul's. Peter Barwick brother of the above excellent character, and also born at Witherslack, was an eminent physician. He followed the steps of his brother in his attachment to the royal cause, and was after the Restoration made physician in ordinary to the king.

Launcelot Addison, father to the celebrated Joseph Addison was born in the parish of Crossby Ravensworth. He was of the church and is represented as a man of learning and lively parts. John Smith, Bishop of Durham, distinguished himself by his learning, his prudence, and his fidelity. He published some sermons and an excellent edition of Bede's Ecclesiastical History. John Smith, a younger brother of Bishop Smith, was as well as his brother born at Lowther. He was intended for some civil employ; but, being of a grave and contemplative cast, nothing could detach him from the church, and in the pursuit of his different occupations his study was to be generally useful. He procured from Queen Caroline, after he had been promoted to the provostship of Queen's College, Oxford, a thousand pounds towards finishing the college buildings, and had a considerable hand in persuading Lady Elizabeth Hastings, and Mr. Mitchel of Richmond, in Surry, to make those noble foundations which were by them established for the support of fellows and exhibitioners. He died at a very advanced age having lived an honour to his country.

GIBSON, a learned and worthy prelate early in the last century, was born at BAMPTON, in WESTMORELAND. He owed his promotions to TENNISON, Archbishop of CANTERBURY, who had the good sense to discover his merit, and the justice to allow it. GIBSON became Bishop of LINCOLN, and at length of LONDON. His works written and compiled for the edification of mankind were very numerous. I shall finish my WESTMORELAND biography by noticing that Lady CATHERINE PAR, who kicked up the heels of HENRY the Eighth, after he had buried and divorced five wives, was born at KENDAL-CASTLE.

Adieu. After I have rambled through CUMBERLAND, I shall expect the pleasure of meeting you at CARLISLE to accompany me into SCOTLAND.

Leicester-Place. Your's with great truth and esteem,

Jan. 12, 1802. C. DIBDIN.

WESTMORELAND.

Table of distances in WESTMORELAND. Corporation towns, each governed by a mayor and aldermen, are marked thus *, boroughs thus †, and the market towns have the days placed before them.

	Appleby	Brough	Burton	Kendal	Kirkby-Lonsdale	Kirkby-Steven	Orton	London
Wed. Ambleside to	22	31	27	24	28	30	14	273
Sat. Appleby to		8	34	24	35	13	10	270
Th. Brough to			42	31	30	5	17	289
Tues. Burron to				11	18	35	25	249
* † Sat. Kendal to					12	24	14	262
Th. Kirkby-Lonsdale to						24	26	249
Mon. Kirkby-Steven to							21	284
Wed. Orton to								274

LETTER LX.

CUMBERLAND.

Mr. WARE.

DEAR SIR,

In my last letter, which I addressed to my kind and valuable friend Dr. Garnett, I have described the lakes in Westmoreland exactly in the style of those feelings with which the beautiful and extraordinary objects in question affected me; and, as you are a witness that my delight must have been pretty much excited, or else that I can act well the part of a hypocrite, a character I hardly think you will be very willing to brand me with, I shall now the matter reword, which I believe hypocrisy is as little calculated to perform as madness, which fell from me on the subject of Cumberland, when I had the pleasure of seeing you at Whitehaven.

As Cumberland, at least that part of it which was comprehended in my route, demands a description completely different from Westmoreland, or else, my conception is very erroneous, I have only to detail those observations which I was compelled upon this occasion to make, and this with me is nothing more than extracting, as from a diary, those passages which I then marked down in my mind, exactly in the way I compose my songs; which, though I fancy the circumstance is very little credited and less conceived, I never upon any occasion

put upon paper, I mean the music of them, till the engraver, who cannot conveniently copy them from my mind, requires of me that operation for the purpose of sending them publickly into the world.

I parted from Dr. GARNETT on that side of LEATHES-WATER, nearest to KESWICK; and, with HELVELLYN on my right, stretched onward through St. JOHN'S Vale, in admiration at every step of the various and extraordinary alterations in the shapes and effects of those rude and uncouth objects which, from their immense size and rugged aspect, one should have supposed to have been incapable of diversity. St. JOHN'S Rock, which rises like a mighty castle, seemed to guard like a watch-tower the bold and romantic objects around, and to spread a gloomy and dun shadow over the wide spreading valley, still as silence, and sacred to melancholy. The affections of the mind were now as completely the reverse of those excited by the beauties of WINDERMERE, as if some fairy by a stroke of enchantment had altered the face of nature to introduce astonishment by way of relief to delight.

The dark rocks had now eclipsed the vale of St. JOHN, and we were not long before we ascended CASTLERIG. SKIDDAW had been for some time in view; but I must confess it did not in that situation, with HELVELLYN in my mind, which, at the foot of LEATHES Water, is, with its formidable phalanx of giant rocks, certainly a most tremendous object, strike me as a very captivating novelty. I had lost it, however, as we laboured up CASTLERIG, when in a moment, with as much delight as astonishment, my eye caught the smiling Derwent lying at the foot of CAWSEY PIKE. Out of all I ever saw of grand effect, I select three instances which I consider as the nearest to true sublimity. The first view of WINDERMERE, in the way from KENDAL to BOWNESS, this I speak of here, and the enchanting aspect of LOCH LOMOND when it manifests itself in the way from DUMBARTON to CAMERON.

At this spot, nearly on the summit of CASTLERIG, the whole of KESWICK vale was an invisible chasm, and the line of the road cut the Derwent, at I suppose the distance of more than three miles. I knew I should be some time employed,

and I wanted my dinner. I therefore dispatched my purveyors in the carriage, and determined to walk on to Keswick, I instantly set myself to work, and opposite this page you will see the result of my labour. About a quarter of a mile further, with Keswick open to my view, I took another sketch; but, though the subject was enriched by a greater number of objects, and every one beautiful in its way, yet to me it did not afford that quiet, that solemn satisfaction induced by the noble mass I had at first beheld. Not long after this, as I walked soberly on devouring with my eyes the richness, the grandeur, the novelty of the objects about me, without losing any part of them, for on the contrary they grew into beauty and variety under my feet, I saw with infinite pleasure and surprize an expansion that presently disclosed Bassenthwaite Water at the foot of Skiddaw.

I now began to confess the imperial consequence of this mighty mountain, for Cawsey-Pike, though nearer to me, consciously contracted itself. At this instant I recollected that I was standing in the very situation which so delighted Gray and which with such beauty of language he so warmly describes. I have already said that I think the descriptions of Gray denote a strong poetical mind; but his landscapes are too full of redundancy for a sublime picture. It is true on this spot you have a circuit of twenty miles, you are delighted with the two lakes, and the separate mountains, which are their boundaries; but for that very reason the interest is divided; and, though I allow two charming pictures might be made of them, yet the best attempt to unite them would shrink all the objects into insignificance. For my own part, as I looked at Keswick, which stood between them, and seemed pointing to the right and left, full of delight, as thankful as gratitude, and as playful as fancy, I involuntary quoted Macheath, and sung as vacantly as a ploughman, "How happy could I be with either."

By the time I arrived at Keswick I was quite ready for the dinner; which, at one of the cleanest houses I ever entered was ready for me, and I really believe I never eat a dinner with so much pleasure. The trout were delicious, and every thing else was good in proportion. I had but little time however to stay, and it was material to me that I should employ it to advantage. I therefore sent for a boatman and we were presently all hands on the Derwent. Excursions on the

water are delicious, but I know not in this instance that lakes have a pre-eminence over rivers, especially where the latter wind through a fine country, and have a communication with the sea. A coasting trip on the Dart in DEVONSHIRE, or the Orwell in SUFFOLK, or indeed many other rivers that I could mention havesome advantages from their winding direction and the number of objects encountered on their way, especially as they widen and terminate in the ocean, to which lakes have no pretention. There is however an awful serene stillness in a contemplation of the magnificent objects around while you sail on the Derwent, which fills the mind with that pleasing melancholy that SHAKESPEAR attributes to the effect of sweet music, because the spirits are attentive. Thus lightly buoyant on the even lake you glide on, each turn disclosing new objects, always tremendous, and always romantic. SKIDDAW, however, the lord; from whose towering summit the aching sight precipitates itself for ease to the surface of the lakes, than which perhaps nothing in nature can be more exquisitely limpid.

The lake however is no situation for a painter, for if a bird's-eye view, to get at which you climb eminences and look down upon mountains is too distracted: An effect from a bottom which shuts out the horizon and gives nothing but altitude is altogether too sombre; besides drawing from water where you can have no foreground destroys the best properties of a picture. Look at the Flemish sea pieces, even those of VANDEVELDT, which have nothing but sky and water, and see, in spite of the nature and fidelity they contain, whether the line of the horizon and other square correspondent objects do not throw a tameness into their character which almost induces you to forget the exquisite workmanship lavished away upon them.

Our boatman was very intelligent and very civil, indeed civility seems to be the characteristic of the lower order of society in this country. He would have landed us at the different stations for taking views, but we could not command sufficient time for the purpose. He did not fail however to amuse us with the story of the Earl of DERWENTWATER, and all the particulars of his escape. He seemed mechanically to lament the fall of CROW-PARK, and that the beautiful description by GRAY of the view of FOE-PARK is flatly contradicted by its present

appearance. These are the reasons why I have constantly recommended effect, which will for ever remind you of a place instead of views, which time and innovation will alter and confound. Noblemen will improve their estates, public convenience will dictate the necessity of alterations in roads, and natural concussions will crumble fragments of prominences into decay; but take a grand feature into your picture, and the fidelity of all the rest will be granted. SKIDDAW and HELVELLYN will be known when time and chance shall have mouldered inferior objects into oblivion.

I was very much delighted, in the sense I have already explained the word, at a look into the jaws of BORROWDALE, and between these two cliffs on the side of CAWSEY PIKE, which has something the appearance of a crater, and which it is generally believed there must formerly have been a tremendous volcano. The only place we landed at was near the mill, where strangers are directed to see the cascade at LOWDORE. I have already said that the weather was fine, and therefore I was obliged to fancy many of those cataracts that I was told I should be sure to see. This at LOWDORE, which has been called the NIAGARA of the Derwent, was by no means in its best perfection; but travellers must be content. The object of my curiosity was pleasure, not Quixotism, and therefore I consoled myself with a reflection that it was as well, perhaps, to put up with half a waterfall, in perfect health, as to see it in its most astonishing and tremendous state, with a violent cold.

This cataract, even as I saw it is an object of infinite wonder, and the gulph of rocks, decorated with shrubs, thrown about as they are in the most careless and picturesque positions, and ornamented with such a number of rich and beautiful colours, exhibit a grandeur and a sobriety which I certainly never before had an idea of. The grand effect is occasioned by the strong shadow thrown across from corner to corner, which the peculiarity of the situation will always produce; and, to give this the best effect in my power, I have made it a moon-light. The print will come here. It is, as will be seen, the skeleton of a cascade, rather than the thing itself; but it is as I saw it, and imagination must perform the rest, which

indeed may be perfectly acceptable to some of my readers, for imagination can perform much more than nature.

It is proper here to describe some particulars relative to this situation, so particularly characteristic of the most romantic and remarkable parts of CUMBERLAND. What I have to say, however, will be necessarily confined, as I had no power to visit either GRANGE, where Mr. GRAY was treated with such hospitality, or BORROWDALE, to which place he was afraid to venture, but which road now is, I understand, not only practicable, but easy. I have already noticed that the black lead is found in greater perfection among these mountains than in any place in the world. These lead mines, or rather the ruins of former mines, in which are found molybdena, are about ten miles from KESWICK, and are obstructed by such numberless inconvenient and fragile objects, that none but travellers of extraordinary curiosity will explore them.

The black lead is found in heavy lumps, some of which are hard, gritty, and of no value, and others soft and of a fine texture. It is very curious that this substance should be a thing peculiar in its nature from every thing else, and that this part of the world should alone produce it in any perfection. It is much procured by free-booters, who risk continual peril to chaffer with the Jews who lurk about KESWICK. These mines, if they must be so called, lye near those rugged precipices, under which is situatedthe village of GRANGE, where GRAY, with the warm heart and the descriptive pen of a poet, relates to Dr. WHARTON the hospitable treatment he received from the farmer who had the year before plundered the Eagle's Eyrie. This is the entrance into BORROWDALE which had not then been made so passable as it is at present. The rocks here are not in a chain, as if adhering by consent for general support, as in the neighbourhood of HELVELLYN, but disjointed, seperate, and disdaining assistance, and thus maintaining a naturally geometrical stability, that has defied the convulsions of ages. In this region is situated the Bowdar Stone. I did not see it of course, nor did I learn the exact dimensions of it; and as to its being one single stone, it may be so, but I think the assertion rather problematical, as the composition of all rocks consists of different strata,

and there can be no doubt but this mass is the fragment of a rock detached from its parent body by some strong effort of nature.

Many of these things I learnt as we contemplated the rugged precipices of LOWDORE, while the cannon was preparing, the report of which travelling among the rocks, sent back their number in so many echoes. Having again taken water, I was more and more inquisitive, and our guide communicative. We rowed round the islands, which were rich and luxuriant, particularly that of Lord WILLIAM GORDON. I intimated that the situation must be aguish, and he assured me I was mistaken, and that he himself had been accustomed to the ague when he lived near FURNESS, but had never been troubled with any symptom since he settled at KESWICK. I asked him concerning what I had heard of the agitations of the lake, which he informed me was a very curious thing, occasioned by what is termed a bottom wind. I can scarcely perceive the principles of it, but he described it as a succession of whirlpools, which arise partially to the surface, and then dissipate. He told me he had broken them sometimes with his oar. I asked him at what part of the lake they were most frequent? and he pointed to the side which leads to what has been, as I mentioned before, suspected to have been a volcano; and thus, one would suppose, it arises from the same causes as those I have described, speaking of the same kind of phenomenæ experienced by the meres in HUNTINGDONSHIRE, a comparison which I promised to make when I should speak of the Derwent.

My business the next day was to reach COCKERMOUTH; and, having passed CROSSTHWAITE church, I came to a most beautiful peep at BASSENTHWAITE water, at the foot of SKIDDAW, which now having no rival, carried the eye to an immense height, and seemed towering into the cloud from which its extreme elevation could scarcely be discerned. This effect, so perfectly different from any thing I had yet seen, I took from one of GRAY'S glasses, which I purposely fixed on a gate, and having reversed it, I kept it as a faithful memorandum for a picture. A print of it will come in here. I think the majestic sweep which SKIDDAW takes as it lowers to the lake cannot be excelled, and the distant land, which seems to shrink as if overcome with its ponderous weight, lies so modestly quiet, that no-

thing altogether can give a sweeter effect of sober sublimity. Further on I took another view, but the lake was more expanded, and the objects more diffused. About two miles further, I began to find that the best views were retrospective, and therefore I got out and walked, taking care every now and then to look back, and frequently making sketches, the Derwent always in view, and generally accompanied by Cawsey Pike, Saddle-Back, the entrance into Borrowdale, and the string of mountains that lead to Helvellyn.

The different tints they exhibited, according to their respective situations, and the beauty of the hazy extremities, for outline they had none, were a lesson in colouring, symmetry, and perspective, to the painter, from which in an hour he might learn more truth and fidelity than the schools could teach him in a year. The intelligence between the mountains and the clouds, the broad shadows strengthening towards the bottom, and the brilliant lights playing on the summit of the mountains, some prominent, others receding, mellowed a thousand grand objects into one distinct body. Thus I went on till I got the Derwent into the same, or nearly the same situation in which I caught the Bassenthwaite water in the foregoing print. I thought I could not find a better companion for it, and therefore determined to manifest a testimony of my gratitude at parting. Here you will see my feeble attempt to express a subject belonging only to the pencil of Wilson, if not Claude, in which I may liken myself to the man who, being most brilliantly complimented by his friend, answered, that though he could not pretend to the same elocution, he thanked him with the same sincerity.

They may talk for a thousand years of rules. If a man would be eloquent, instead of tropes, figures, and rounded periods, let him enforce truth by uttering it naturally; if a young lady would captivate, let her forget her vanity, her novels, and her dancing-master, and look, speak, and walk naturally. The difference between ostentation and magnificence, compliment and kindness, profligacy and pleasure, noise and mirth, and all those various instances in which radical qualities are distorted and caricatured by servile imitation, just as monkies ape men, arises from not discriminating that which we feel from that which we feign; from not knowing a mask from a face; in short, for palming upon the world art for

nature. Let not painting then, which is an imitative art, be permitted to imitate any thing but nature; and, above all, let those who, in their delineations of smoke, cabbages, and Cheshire cheese, have fondly fancied that they have painted air, trees, and rocks, convince themselves that they never, even in idea, knew what such things are, by taking a trip to WINDERMERE, the Derwent, and Loch Lomond.

I could with great pleasure dwell more at large on this interesting subject, bnt I am obliged to work by a guage, and can give each county no more than its measured portion of matter. I must therefore leave these regions of wonder and delight for towns and cities, and the silence of the sheep and the runts for the busy hum of men. A tolerable specimen of the last I had at COCKERMOUTH, where the market was thronged like a fair. It was on Monday the twenty-sixth of May. This is the best market in the county, except that at PENRITH, for corn; and, as the harbour is capable of receiving ships of large burthen, no doubt but the coasting trade is beneficial. Indeed, I believe both this place and WORKINGNGTON are rising every day in spirit and consequence.

On the twenty-seventh I had the pleasure of taking you by the hand at WHITEHAVEN, which I found a large and populous town; and, indeed, how can it be otherwise? for it is another NEWCASTLE, with the difference, that your market are IRELAND and SCOTLAND, and theirs' English coasting and LONDON. WHITEHAVEN, however, could not have been a place of any material consequence, till the building of the church, and the several acts of parliament voted for its improvement, taught it gradually to wear its present aspect. This town and its colleagues, COCKERMOUTH and WORKINGTON, seemed to form a neighbourhood of that comfortable description, where every man endeavours at independance by fair industry, a mode of living which insures happiness by reflection, and which can easily be come at; for independance is in the possession of all those who square their pleasures by their means, and I have no doubt but one might meet with men virtually as rich, and fully as content, as all the LOWTHERS, who, after all, can only make both ends meet on a Saturday night, and reserve a splendid shil-

ling for an honest and inoffensive regale, garnished by a perusal of the Cumberland Packet.

We parted on the twenty-ninth at WHITEHAVEN, but I had the pleasure of meeting you again that very evening at WORKINGTON, from whence in the morning I sent the psalm for your friend HOWGILL*. On the thirtieth, which was the Friday, we went by COCKERMOUTH to WIGTON, and slept at CARLISLE.

It will be my wisest way to stick to the observations I made as I passed, and what I could gather from intelligent friends, and to those circumstances which will beget a lively interest rather than resort to an immense mass of information, which were it ascertained could convey but little pleasure, except to grubs and moths. I shall therefore content myself with merely saying, because all the world knows it, that ADRIAN's vallum and the wall of SEVERUS, both of which were built as barriers against the incursions of the Northern Britons, crossing the north of the county of NORTHUMBERLAND, and extending from the Solway-Frith, part of the Irish Sea on the west to the German Ocean, and on the east for about eighty miles, are both consolidated under the title of the PICTS-WALL; but as to any thing relative to the military ways, castles, mural fences, stations, bulwarks, and boundaries; for my own part I would as soon attempt to fancy I had found

* It would be very difficult to describe the warmth and kindness which I have invariably received from my friend WARE, from the first moment we knew each other; and, as I am not fond of being outdone in this way, I have endeavoured the best in my power to pay off the score. As we were at supper he intimated a wish that I would lend a lift to his friend HOWGILL's Book of Psalms, which he was then getting ready for publication by subscription, I told him I had never composed but one psalm, and that was done in compliment to my old friend Dr. MILLER of DONCASTER, and that I would readily try my hand for his friend. He said he had hoped for my compliance, and therefore had selected some words which were in my way, for they were nautical. He then produced me a transcript of the hundred and seventh psalm, which I put in my pocket, and promised to take an early opportunity of being faithful to my word. As I had CARLISLE to make on the following day, and from thence to go for SCOTLAND, where I knew I should be a good deal occupied, I determined to avail myself of that moment to oblige my friend, lest necessity should have compelled me to infringe on my promise, a circumstance which I could not easily have forgiven myself: I therefore sat down to the table at the inn, for I had no instrument, and wrote my musick. I understand it answers Mr. HOWGILL's purpose, which gives me pleasure as well on his account as that this trifle has struck out a figure, though an inconsiderable one, in my friend WARE's statement of kindness.

the clue of ARIADNE to the Labyrinth of CRETE, as undertake the mad task of describing them. I could, indeed, if it were not that I am naturally compassionate, refer my reader to a number of authors, whose writings on this subject are full both of vague assertions and palpable contradictions.

In the course of our conversation on sacred music, my friend WARE had a great curiosity to know what I thought of the tune, which is generally sung to the hundredth psalm, and whom I considered as the composer of it. I had rather I confess in an unqualified manner, which is not very usual with me, unless the fact be self-evident, asserted in my *History of the Stage*, that it was composed by LUTHER. He had seen this and gave me what I then thought some pointed reasons why I was mistaken, following them up with others which feasibly enough gave the honour of that most extraordinary composition to Dr. JOHN BULL. I promised him I would examine the question, and set down the result of my deliberations in this tour; and, as the circumstances are curious, I shall here bring them forward, and, upon the principle that it is laudable in men to acknowledge errors, even to Lord Chancellors who have been known with all the candour in the world to reverse their own decrees, I here most honestly confess that taking all the circumstances together, I cannot at this moment consent to allow this beautiful feather to be placed in the wing of LUTHER, for I am clearly of opinion that the documents which induced me to make this assertion, entirely arose from the *ipse dixit* of HANDEL, which every man must acknowledge to be an imposing authority. Let us examine such facts as I have been able to collect. LUTHER was fond of church music, and BAYLE says, that to sing a psalm was in the judgment of the orthodox of that day to be a Lutheran. All this, however, exhibits no proof that LUTHER was a composer, or at any rate of that admirable stamp which marks the genius of him who composed the hundredth psalm. Church music has lent wonderful assistance to the influence of devotion, especially in establishng new sects. LUTHER, says my authority, with all his love of church music, not his merit as a composer, which words would have been appropriate had he been one, could not manage so as to make psalm singing a part of public worship, and indeed it is notorious enough that this advantage did not obtain originally in GERMANY, but in FRANCE, which curious fact thus arose: A man of the name of MAROT, who had turned Lutheran, had the art or perhaps the interest, for he was a man of most extensive influence, to prevail upon the Doctors of the Sorbonne to permit a publication of some of David's Psalms, backed by a declaration from that learned body, that they contained nothing contrary to the Christian faith, an assertion for which I fancy every body will give them credit. In this manner MAROT stole a march upon the public; till, having before his death published fifty psalms, his friend THEODORE BEZA added the remaining hundred. "BEZA," says STRADA, who seems to give the most impartial account of the business, "procured tunes to be set to this version by excellent "composers, which chimed so sweetly that every one desired to have the new psalter." Some of these tunes might certainly be German, and indeed their character seems to indicate so much, but some were clearly French, and many were no doubt English, and BAYLE informs us that, though the circumstance could be considered as a thing very little short of heresy, the king, the queen, and of course all the courtiers, sung these psalms to French and foreign tunes, most probably Italian and English, the phlegm of the German sorting but little with the gaiety of a court. These circumstances seem to put LUTHER out of the question. There certainly was a German version, but MAROT's psalms were translated from the Hebrew, and my friend WARE, who to maintain his original opinion on this subject has been indefatigable, assures me, in a letter I have received from him this very day, that the

This determined, I see nothing further I have to do than briefly to speak of celebrated men in CUMBERLAND, and bid that county, where in a little time I received much pleasure, adieu; for, as to curious plants, which I have been every where accustomed to speak of, I find but few which are not also common to WESTMORELAND. Those few, however, I shall enumerate.

German version has not this tune, which it certainly would have had if LUTHER had been the composer. He goes on and says, that the version of STERNHOLD and HOPKINS, which has always been considered as taken from the German, is an improvement on MAROT and BEZA. He tells me that he writes with an English Bible before him, containing the version of the Psalms by STERNHOLD and HOPKINS, "with apt notes to sing them withal," printed in 1580 by the deputies of CHRISTOPHER BURKET; in which the reader is informed, by a preface to the Psalms, that the publisher "hath caused a *new note* to be cut with letters to *them*," *ut, mi, ri, fa, sol*, &c. so that thou mayest "learn to call every note by *his* own name;" an introduction completely in the style of the production itself. These notes, as he describes clearly, prove that they are copied from MAROT, as well because they have a cliff as that some are long and some are short, and always without divisions, as that they contain the Hundredth Psalm, which is not in the German version. If I had looked deeper into the matter than I did, I might have seen all this before; and, as recantation is not always apostacy, I am now ready to admit what at that time I had not so maturely considered as I ought to have done. To maintain my present opinion, in which I am happy to unite with my friend, whose good sense and intelligence are known and acknowledged, I shall remark that, upon a close examination of the tune in question, I think it of a more modern and a more English construction than the time and style of the Germans, which fact I have ascertained by comparing the different compositions in MAROT'S version, with which my friend WARE furnished me when I had the pleasure of seeing him at WHITEHAVEN. In this book the German, such as it was when we were first induced to seek it as an auxiliary, the French, as it ever was and ever will be, a mixture of the Italian and the German, with nothing natively its own, and, lastly, the English, simple and commanding, and free from the affectation of any country, may all be easily distinguished by their prevalent distances. These are all the reasons which I can possibly offer here to prove that LUTHER, of whom more things have been fabled than of any man that ever existed, is not likely to have been the composer of the Hundredth Psalm. My next business is to see how far it is probable that it was composed by Dr. BULL, which I should be very happy to prove, if it were only that his christian name was JOHN. BULL was born in 1563. It was about the year 1602 that the musician at ST. OMER'S, in admiration of his great talents, declared, and in imitation of Sir THOMAS MORE to ERASMUS, that he was either the devil or JOHN BULL. BULL after this returned to ENGLAND, and in 1613 went into FLANDERS, where he became *Maestro de Cappella* to the Archduke, and had of course the regulation of the church music. LUTHER died in 1546, MAROT in 1544. BEZA, after the death of his friend, had to write, and procure tunes to, a hundred psalms; therefore the version could not possibly be originally published till many years after the death of LUTHER. I have a vague account that its original publication was in 1563; which, being the very year on which BULL was born, would overset all expectation of his being the composer, could it be proved that the tune we speak of was in that version. I understand that an edition was printed in 1622, and that which I have has the date of 1659, and was published at AMSTERDAM. Now these two last editions were beyond doubt revised by BULL officially, he being then superintendant of all

Buglos, water gladiole, an orchis, called meadow handed orchis, and another called the purple military, which are only varieties of those I have already mentioned, and the great bilberry bush, which is a rare plant, and not to be met with under the article *Vaccinium*, are found at many places in CUMBERLAND. Bitter vetch, or peaseling, *orobus*. There are fourteen species of this plant. The roots of the tuberous *orobus*, or wood and heath pease, when boiled, are savoury and nutritious; ground into powder, they may be used to make bread. They are much esteemed by the Highlanders in SCOTLAND, and chewed to anticipate hunger. They are also supposed to promote expectoration, and to cure disorders of the lungs. An intoxicating liquor may be procured from them. Bastard hemp. Of the hemp, known under the name *cannabis*, there are prodigious varieties. This sort is distinguished by the term *datisca*, or *cannabis spuria*. One species of it is called *ageratum*, classically and popularly *maudlin*. The flowers are remarkable. The smaller treacle mustard, *thlapsi minus*. It is this plant, because it is common, which is frequently mixed with mustard, particularly what is generally sold for Durham mustard. It is discoverable by having a flavour like garlick. It enters into a composition of mithradate, and is thus useful to expel poisons, but it is very forcing, and one of those dreadful things that unfortunate and wicked women have administered, at the risk of their own lives, to destroy prematurely the lives of their offspring. It is re-

church music to the Archduke. The circumstance, therefore, that can completely settle the question is to ascertain whether this tune, which is now sung to the Hundredth Psalm, was in the original edition of MAROT and BEZA. If it was, BULL could not have composed it; if it was not, it is very likely indeed that he did. At any rate, it clearly appears to be English, and by no means the production of LUTHER. If, therefore, it was not the invention of BULL, it is more than probable it might be that of BIRD, whose little attention to his own reputation is so well known, and whom I have already defended against PALESTRINA as the composer of *Non nobis domine*. I do not incline to think it could be TALLIS or TYE. It is too sublimely simple to match with their works. BIRD seems to have had the very mind likely to have conceived it.

These are my reasons on the subject; I submit them to the public with all possible deference, and conceive at any rate, upon the same principle that the *ipse dixit* of HANDEL conferred this honour upon MARTIN LUTHER, because he was a German, I have a right to look after the reputation of JOHN BULL, who was an Englishman.

lated of course distantly to the *iberis* and the *clypeole*. Unsavoury pannonian rocket, *hesperis pannonica inodora*, is a rank weed; but, by transplanting and judicious treatment, the finest sorts of the white and purple rocket are obtained from it. These, goat's beard, which I have already explained, and sawed golden rod, which is a solidago, and which is said to be good as a corroborant and an aperient, but which being very scarce in this country, is seldom administered, make up all the material botanical productions in CUMBERLAND.

Of celebrated men, there are mentioned no large number who were very eminently distinguished. KIRBY, Bishop of CARLISLE, was a spirited character; for, when the Scots had plundered his country, he laid by the crosier and took up the sword, and with so much success, that he utterly broke and defeated their whole army, and returned covered with spoils. MICHAEL SCOT, who was born at WIGTON, went so profoundly into the mathematics and natural magic, that, like BACON, he got the reputation of being a conjuror. OWEN CÆSARIUS I have already mentioned. HUDSON, an eminent critic, was born near COCKERMOUTH. He was a great catalogue-maker, and was made keeper of the Bodleian Library, but I never heard of his enriching it with any ingenious work of his own invention.

AGLIONBY, an eminent divine, who was chaplain in ordinary to Queen ELIZABETH, and who had a hand in the translation of the New Testament in the reign of JAMES the First, was a CUMBERLAND man; so was GRINDAL, Archbishop of CANTERNURY. He was one of those protestant priests who were obliged, under the persecutions of MARY, to take shelter in a foreign land, and who were nobly recompensed on their return by ELIZABETH. To these I shall add NICHOLSON, who was born at ORTON, He became Bishop of CARLISLE by his singular merit. He was engaged in the Bangorian controversy, and at length sent to IRELAND, which it is probable, like SWIFT, he considered as a banishment, for he died shortly afterwards.

On my return from SCOTLAND, an account of my excursion to which place I shall next address to Dr. GARNETT, I shall expect the pleasure of your company through NORTHUMBERLAND and DURHAM. In the mean time, and at all times, you will find me

Leicester-Place, Most truly and sincerely yours,

Jan. 10, 1802. C. DIBDIN

	Bootle	Brampton	Carlisle	Cockermouth	Egremont	Ireby	Keswick	Langtown	Penrith	Ravenglass	Whitehaven	Wigton	Workington	London
Sat. Alstonmoor to	67	19	28	43	56	35	36	31	19	67	51	39	51	302
Wed. Bootle to		69	60	31	17	44	40	69	42	8	22	47	31	287
Tues. Brampton to			9	36	55	20	44	12	22	69	50	20	42	313
Sat. Carlisle to				27	46	21	35	9	18	55	41	11	42	302
Mon. Cockermouth to					19	10	12	36	27	28	13	16	8	302
Sat. Egremont to						29	31	55	48	9	5	35	13	302
Thurs. Ireby to							22	30	19	39	23	10	18	302
Sat. Keswick to								44	18	39	26	22	20	290
Thurs. Langtown to									27	48	50	20	44	311
Tues. Penrith to										47	40	21	32	286
Sat. Ravenglass to											15	44	22	287
Tues. Whitehaven to												30	8	305
Tues. Wigton to													20	304
Wed. Workington to														310

CUMBERRLAND.

Table of distances in CUMBERLAND. The six members of parliament repres nt the county of CARLISLE and COCKERMOUTH. There is no corporation town governed by a mayor and aldermen except CARLISLE. The market days are placed before the towns.

LETTER LXI.

ANONYMOUS LETTERS.

THOMAS KING, Esq.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

I KNOW of no propensity so pitiable as a wanton and profligate abuse of time. May we live all the days of our lives, is a good significant toast; but let us feel the sentiment it conveys, as well in our moral duties as over the glass, so shall it teach us to let no moment pass unmarked by active benevolence, or, in wider terms, let us understand it to mean that for permission to live we covenant to taste no pleasures but such as are rational; to regard prosperity only as it reflects happiness on those who are blest with fewer of fortune's comforts; and to bear every reverse of fortune with fortitude and resignation.

To live is to be awake; to cherish the blessings of an animated and lively joy, resulting from the unspeakable comfort and delight of uncontaminated health, and the delicious and exquisite satisfaction of giving and receiving the degree of happiness which nature and fortune have placed within our power; and, upon this principle, a man would rather sleep to all eternity, in the true French way, than exist in that listless state of moving torpidity in which a wonderfully large portion of the world glide insensibly through a sort of life that upon a comparison would be an insult to vegetation. I believe I have already remarked how infinitely

more the sensitive plant seems to be animated than an oyster. If people would actually sleep outright it would be all mighty well. Then they might be kicked about, or put out of the way, like any other log or useless lumber; but to eat, drink, dress, ride, walk, converse, and all the rest of it in a slumber is really too bad.

Not that I would have a man always upon the broad stare any more than upon the broad grin. One betrays a silly curiosity, and the other a stupid ignorance. To make the best of either time or money is to pursue the fair and rational mean between avarice and profligacy. A miser shall count his hours; and, as his time is short, put it out to the best interest and lay by every moment. This shall be his argument. I am seventy; but I am frugal, therefore I may indulge reasonable expectation that I shall live ten years longer. In ten years there are a hundred and thirty lunar months, in each month twenty-eight days; making, at the rate of three-hundred and sixty-five days, five hours, and forty-nine minutes in the year, for the remaining term of my life, three-thousand six-hundred and fifty days, nine hours and a fraction. Now, if I sleep only four hours out of every twenty-four instead of eight, which is the general standard, I shall gain an interest upon the whole time of four-hundred and eighty-five days, or a sixth of the principal, being almost two years, or nearly seventeen per cent. which valuable time by way of compound interest I shall employ to increase my capital, while slothful mortals dream on beds of down.

Thus while he calculates upon a period that will never arrive; nor, if it did, could it pass but in drawling torment, either the damp vault where, over his hoard he thus apostrophizes, gives him a fever which carries him off; or else, while he dreams of new treasure which did he possess he would not have the courage to use, some thief tracks out his mammon, he wakes a beggar, goes to visit his darling pelf, misses it, and hangs himself.

Let the profligate, making the same calculation, defy sleep and fancy all the joys of the gods in his turbulent pleasures. He goes beyond the miser for he gets no sleep at all. Slumber indeed he has, from which he awakes in a bur-

ning fever, trembling and paralyzed; and thus he lives, if it may be called living, all the days of his short and merry, or if you will, frantic life, curtailing an existence intended by nature and Providence to crown him with length of days and honour, and thus exhibiting the semblance of an empty cask, which had been stored with nutrimental cordial, now by an improvident use turned to poison.

The rational man will make his calculation too; and really a desire of gaining something from sleep to prolong life, that is to say valuable and desirable life, is a most charming idea, and it is no bad logic to insist that there is nothing lost into the bargain; for life, enjoyed upon terms, such as it is held by a person of this description, must possess such hale and sane principles, that, suppose we take the medium and allow six hours for sleep, which will, according to Hunks, neat one year of every ten, yet will it answer the purpose of eight as it is generally taken; for, if it be admitted that one hour's sleep before midnight be worth two hours after it, certainly it must evidently follow that one hour's sleep with sound health and a quiet conscience must be enjoyed in an enhanced proportion, compared to that which is endured with the torment of an aching head, or an aching heart.

Time then is the most valuable treasure we possess, and the more as it is passive and takes all our abuse of it as quietly as a spaniel, and yet the next moment fawns us into self reproach. Let us not then trifle with a friend so sincere and so necessary, and one that will never be unfaithful to us, even though we should be unfaithful to ourselves; with which remark I take leave of preaching on my text, to illustrate it by fact; lest, while I moralize on the loss of time, I should be accused of having lost it myself, especially as I am pinned by the title of this letter to an examination of only one abuse of it.

Having received in the course of twelve years at least five-hundred anonymous letters, I may be supposed to have formed some capable conjecture of the motives from which in general these friendly admonitions originate. I shall only examine them here as to their general tendency and effect; for to go into them

minutely, would be to trench upon a task of considerable magnitude, which I mean hereafter to undertake, when I publish the words of my different songs, to the number, I believe, of seven-hundred, almost every one headed by a short history of its creation, making altogether a review of the most material circumstances in my life.

If I may judge from my own experience, and I suppose letters of this description are sent to me from the same kind motives that they are sent to every body else, it is really a misery to notice how men can so expose themselves to trace out those failings in others under which these vehicles, serve, as so many confessions in their hand-writing, to prove they labour themselves. Is it possible they can be such idiots to suppose that in spite of the film thrown over the hideous deformity of their intentions, it is not apparent in all its ugliness? Can they so grossly deceive themselves as not to see that their very concealment will be considered as a palpable and a malignant deception. Truth loves the light; it never skulks; it scorns to lurk in whispers and inuendoes; it is honest and open. It does not insinuate; it proclaims.

I am willing to believe that anonymous letters have been written with the sincerest intentions in the world, but in proportion to the kindness so is the folly; because the right is questionable. Thus admonition will be treated with indignation, caution will be suspected, advice will be considered as intrusion, and all this with the greatest propriety on the side of the person addressed; for the concealment, to say the least of it, makes it a nullity; but there are plenty of instances that it plays upon infirm minds; and, when that is the case, mischief is done where safety was meant, like the act of an unskilful surgeon who cuts off a finger to save an arm, when neither finger nor arm was in danger. What therefore can such kind busy bodies feel themselves entitled to but the return due to all those who do thankless offices, or to excite either the laughter or the contempt of the person they meditated or serve, for presuming to meddle in the affairs of others, when they had better have minded their own.

Anonymous writers of the above description are, however, very few in number, for kindness like charity is not fond of gadding. Taking them generally, the real motives are either envy, or self triumph, or to carry a point, or to create fear; but indeed they are innumerable. Sometimes the writer is under the influence of enthusiasm, and then you are bid to look to your soul, to forego your worldly pursuits, and place your rest in heaven; ignorant, poor devils, that it is not a bad method by way of securing a foretaste of that rest to be content with your lot, and make a heaven upon earth. I have received more than one letter of this terribly charitable kind, in which I have been loaded with the commonplace canting epithets, such as fallen mortal, child of the devil, imp of the race of Cain, and a great deal more incomprehensible nonsense, full of promises and threats, and benedictions and denunciations, all tending by coaxing, and kicking, to get me in the right way; but it would not do. I have been self-willed and have sinned on, contenting myself with making an honest tar preach in an oath, and utter a sentiment of morality in an execration; which after all, is exactly what they do, with this difference, indeed, that the sailor is sincere.

I have been most kindly instructed how to mend style, fashion, manners, and the nation, and I have had many hints in what way it might be advisable, with a view to popularity, to sow sedition and create anarchy; nor, indeed, has advice of this latter sort been wholly confined to anonymous letters. I have been most condescendingly taught how to write, to compose, to sing, to play, to pronounce, to look, to walk, in short totally to transform myself, forgetting that none of these things are within my own power or capacity, and that nature has permitted me to be exactly what I am and neither more nor less; and forgetting also that the qualities they recommend as a substitute are perhaps as fallible as those I already possess, and that it is unjust to require so great a sacrifice at my hands, without an equivalent. I have been taught how to employ the immense sums I have amassed, and I have received compliments of condolence that, through the ingratitude and injustice of the public in the neglect of my indefatigable exertions, I have not been able to amass any fortune at all.

In all these letters it has so happened that there has not been any thing like a statement or an argument. Every thing has been positive assertion and unqualified *ipse dixit*; and therefore, even though you are not inclined to withhold an answer, they themselves enforce this sensible duty, and operate their own defeat, for they are unanswerable. If a man will know your affairs, your intentions, your motives, your springs of action, better than yourself, you can give him no information of the same value in his mind as that he has found out upon conjecture; besides any attempt at refutation will be considered on your side as a defence which admits the possibility of truth in his accusations. It is also the most egregious nonsense to cherish an expectation of convincing him, for you strike at the existence of his satisfaction at the moment you attempt to remove his suspicions, or rather that which the malignity of his nature has induced him to cherish as a ground for suspicion.

Upon this principle there is but one conduct to pursue; for, were you, out of condescension, out of pity, out of hope that the accusation you repel has arisen from the best intentions, or, indeed, were you from any other motive worthy enough in you, to permit an investigation, it is impossible to do away the operation of what began in prejudice and grew into obstinacy. In short, do your utmost, you would be still in the situation of the French driver, who vainly attempted to conduct a mule over a bridge. The animal revolted, knocked down every thing about it, and at last kicked its own provender into the river. *Eh bien,* said the driver, looking at him with the most perfect *sang froid, voila un petit Monsieur, qu' est un peu opiniatre.* This has ever been my view of the subject, and I congratulate myself at this moment that I have constantly had the prudence to burn every thing of this kind as I received it, and the charity to soften my contempt by admitting into it some portion of pity.

What I have hitherto said may serve to prove that I know my subject, and that I ought to be considered as competent to advise those who have been weak enough to feel and fear what they ought to laugh at and despise. My remarks here have nothing to do with this masked battery business, otherwise than as it relates to residents in the country, who, it must be confessed, tread warily,

and indeed uneasily from an apprehension of these snakes in the grass. But let me re-assure them. There is nothing to be alarmed at. Unnoticed, they are as harmless as worms, and as groveling too; and, though they may turn, it will be only to writhe with that smart they feel but cannot inflict; for their resentment is puny, weak, and unavailing. I am the first to confess that, were the experiment worth while, I should like to see these worse than bats and birds of night struck blind by the midday sun, as was the owl who wanted to marry the young eagle; but when it were done what pleasure could arise from contemplating deformity? What point for instance has been carried by those few who have within this twelvemonth exposed poor devils of this description to the ridicule of barristers in the courts of law, who, heaven knows, are some of them as dull as anonymous letter-writers? The nonsense, and particularly the poetry as it was called, produced upon these occasions was pitiable enough, and it was in the style of all Mr. FIELDING's admirable remarks to say "that the muses were the only ladies who had a right to be affronted."

Whenever they have been traced and discovered what have these wielders of goose-quill daggers turned out to be but men of desperate hopes and desperate fortunes? Under this consideration, I really think they are in some degree entitled to pity, and I recommend to the ladies in particular that they may consider them as a set of poor wretches who are ready to hang themselves for vexation, and who are so driven to the last despair that, not having been crafty enough to steal their purses, which, whatever SHAKESPEAR may say, would not be trash to them, they run all risks and pilfer their good name; a kind of coin, though not tangible, and therefore incapable of appeasing the calls of hunger, is of value enough to purchase that food which revenge as well as jealousy loaths and eats; and really, if ladies will have the prudery to look sharp after their fortunes and refuse to lavish them away on ruined spendthrifts, what better, from ruined spendthrifts have they a right to expect.

We are beautifully told that calumny will reach females even though they are as chaste as ice and as pure as snow. Let them therefore wrap themselves up in their own innocence, that so they may be invulnerable to this offspring of envy.

I acknowledge with the poet, however, that let our intentions be what they may, it is not always easy to escape malignity. A man had been accustomed to teaze a dog as he passed him, till the poor faithful creature lost his patience and flew at him. Being disengaged from this peril, into which he had introduced himself, by not courting the caresses instead of the anger of the poor provoked animal, "Very well," said he, "you have done for yourself. I don't chuse to "take revenge in my own person, but I will give you a bad character, and that "will answer my purpose as well." Presently seeing some persons coming, "Take care of that dog," said he, "he is mad." This was enough. Some idle boys and a butcher or two gathered round, and the slanderer, as he skulked at some distance from the scene, was advertised by the cries of poor Tray, who had done no more than his duty in guarding the house of an affectionate master, that he was falling a victim to that calumny which had in it cruelty and cowardice enough to have destroyed the life of a fellow creature, could it have been effected with the same safety.

'It is more difficult,' said the Persian sage, 'to escape from temptation than 'calumny.' "How," answered a friend, "will you tell me that if a person "found himself alone with a beautiful woman, the doors shut, the husband ab-"sent, and every thing conspiring to destroy her honour and his own, it would be "possible to resist?" 'Certainly,' said the sage, 'it would be difficult; but so 'far from impossible, that no man who did not chuse to subscribe to his own 'misery for life would so far neglect his honour as not to gain this noble 'triumph over himself; but this would answer no end with the world. His in-'nocence would consist in nothing but his own consciousness of it, for to a cer-'tainty nobody would believe it.'

Fortunately the subject is not in its nature of such tremendous consequence as to enforce a necessity of going into it so profoundly. Losers are, by ancient prescription, permitted if they can to laugh, which, by the bye, is rather a malignant permission, for it is tying a man's legs, and then desiring him to run. Thus if any one irreverently, and without the fear of the Tenth Commandment before his eyes, should, from the infirmity of his nature, or from any other of

those impulsive motives which are the illegitimate offspring of the human mind, take it into his head to covet the estate, or the wife, or daughter, or curricle, or scratch wig, of his neighbour, it is really enough to let him languish in that despair which the superior situation, and of course merit of the person so envied may have excited, without manifesting contempt for that imbecility and meanness which ought to induce no sensation more irritable than that of pity.

In all these matters let us look to our own motives. In which case we shall be able to examine how far we have a right to consider ourselves as judges while we are parties. We should see how far we are convinced that our conduct has not in some respects provoked what we complain of as unmerited, and whether we have at all times so deported ourselves as not to invite censure, all which will teach us, while we scrutinize into our own actions, to look with caution and tenderness at the actions of others, and so be enabled to give such a judgement as may soften rancour with contrition. Thus the shafts of envy and malevolence will fall blunted and hurtless, and we shall shew, by deserving well, how weak and unavailing it is to aim a blow at that reputation which honour and rectitude have rendered invulnerable.

While, however, I guard the slandered, let me not furnish arms for the slanderer, who knows well enough that my position in literal terms is impossible. No minds, I am afraid, are so perfect as those I have described, and, if they were, this incendiary knows also that virtue, like nature, occasionally sleeps, and that his business is to catch us napping; and thus it fairly appears, that, if evil-minded men are determined to work by stratagem, the best honour and the most exalted merit will be sometimes insecure. I shall therefore shew these imps of malevolence, leaving it at the same time to their own election whether to desist or persevere, that their labours are impotent, and that their vocation has been universally so considered ever since Æsop wrote the fable of the Viper and the File. Indeed, they are like those depredators on the public who sweat guineas and forge bank notes, the operation of which villainy, however it may be of some partial inconvenience, can never have any visible effect for a single moment to the obstruction of general circulation.

To aim at a reformation would be as ridiculous as it is impossible. I shall not attempt so ineffectual a task, but content myself with pointing out that there neither is nor can be real profit or real pleasure in the pursuit of this very amiable task, unless it can be proved that disappointment, shame, and confusion are profit, or that malignity, cruelty, and want of feeling, are pleasure, from the truth of which remark I defy the most callous to shrink. Let us leave such wretches then to be goaded by it as their punishment, superadding a conscious reflection, that when they shall have distorted imagination, and tortured language to destroy truth, they will find that, like the polypus, their utmost ingenuity will not be able to injure its nature and original form.

Nothing can place the folly and wickedness of writing anonymous letters, and the sense of despising them, in a clearer point of view than the following anecdote, which, even while I have been writing this letter, has been told me as a literal fact. A young gentleman, of excellent morals and sound erudition, strongly inclined to become a member of the church. His father, with an eye perhaps more to his temporal than his spiritual concerns, rather wished that he should belong to the law. Duty prevailing over inclination he consented; and, after he had moved in the proper trammels he practised, I think, nearly three years as an attorney, and in such a way as to reflect honour on the profession to which he had been called. At length, however, he did not exactly find that he was labouring in a vocation suited to his taste, and therefore determined to renew his former studies. He very soon became equal to any examination, and, though his rapid improvement begat some little jealousy as to university etiquette, the bishop of the diocese in which he lived, having heard an admirable character both of his talents and his morals, determined to foster him.

Every possible impediment was of course thrown in the way of his expectation, and, whether the lawyers were jealous that he should became a parson, or the parsons were offended that he had been a lawyer, the determination was universal that he should be represented disadvantageously to the bishop. Nothing, however, would do. The worthy prelate saw into all their art, and every attempt to injure him operated to their confusion. Disappointed as they were, and hurt to

the soul, an anonymous letter was written to the bishop, informing him that the the person he had taken under his protection, and was on the point of ordaining, had practised three years as an attorney. This was accompanied with some significant remarks, and the whole signed "An Enemy to Imposition." The prelate sent for his young friend, entered into a conversation with him, questioned him as to many particulars of his life, and received from him an account so full of truth, good sense, and consistency, that, without the smallest hesitation, he put the anonymous letter into his hand, telling him to use it as he might think proper, leaving it to himself to apply in this circumstancc that best and most becoming part of our moral duty, to overcome our enemies by extending to them our forgiveness, and thus exhibiting objects of more worthy imitation in ourselves. Generosity on one side, and gratitude on the other, is difficult to describe. I shall not attempt it here. This gentleman soon afterwards was ordained, in doing which the bishop has been hinted to have stretched prerogative, just as upright judges make precedents to reward honest men and punish knaves; and so great a right has this worthy prelate to be satisfied with the protection he has extended, that it would be difficult to say which is most the object of envy, the giver or the receiver.

Seeing, therefore, that this amusing emyloyment is nothing better than pains without profit, suppose one were to advise all those who have taken it up to lay it down again, and live honest; and whenever they see a superior degree of goodness or merit in their neighbours, to study the means by which these qualities are attainable, that so they may become valuable members of society themselves. My only apprehension is, that whoever should think proper to do this would become obnoxious to a quotation of the story of the thief; who, being asked by the clergyman as he was going to the gallows why he had not lived by some honest profession, answered, "Why, I should got an honest livelihood by this if they had but let me alone."

If after all it should be found impossible to balance the indifference of the libelled with the malignity of the libeller, that so by coming in contact their different properties, like an alkali and an acid, may neutralize both, it cannot be

said that I have not offered every possible kind of caution, and that it will be my fault if the weak and absurd are frightened with shadows, or that the cowardly and malevolent take advantage of their fears; always through their masked battery, and, in imitation of the Irish paragraph writer in one of FOOTE's pieces, who says, that of all the scandalous rascals that writes in the newspapers, no twenty of them do half so much mischief as one Mr. Anonymous.

Leicester-Place. Your's very truly,

Jan. 31, 1802. C. DIBDIN.

LETTER LXII.

DUMFRIES AND AYR.

Dr. GARNETT.

DEAR SIR,

I HEARD a gentleman once remark that the way to enjoy a three months spring, would be to leave DEVONSHIRE in the middle of March, and travel gradually north so as to arrive at the Highlands in June. Seasons, however, will sometimes contradict the best experience, for when I arrived at CARLISLE on the thirty-first of May, in 1800, when I took leave of my kind and hearty friend WARE, I had experienced seven weeks of summer, notwithstanding the year before I had seen snow in June on the CHEVIOT-HILLS, in NORTHUMBERLAND. Indeed SCOTLAND had, and to say the truth so had ENGLAND, the face of a different country, and those places, which I had been obliged then to give credit for fruitfulness and luxuriance, now paid me principal and interest.

On the first of June I left CARLISLE for DUMFRIES, so that instead of taking a frolic to GRETNA-GREEN as I had done the year before, it was directly in my road. I baited my horses there and heard some curious stories of elopements. The blacksmith, as the clergyman is called who is employed to forge the hymeneal chains for these vagrant lovers. was as before not to be seen. My curiosity,

however, was not very violent, and I contented myself with strolling towards the Solway, to see if my drawing wanted any revision, especially as I had now become better acquainted with the CUMBERLAND mountains. The atmosphere was wrapt in a sort of silvery haze, and I contemplated this wonderful pile of tremendous objects, now contracted into a grey mass and melting into the filmy clouds, which branched from that solid body that lowred on the summit of SKIDDAW, with silent awe and sober admiration.

We dined most miserably at ANNAN, and arrived to tea at DUMFRIES. In this ride I saw nothing to admire; but I was made ample amends in my next. DUMFRIES appeared to me to be the resort of second-hand gentry, and the exile of such young gentlemen as are apprehensive of the consequence of leaving accounts in LONDON unsettled with taylors and money-lenders. One of this description accosted me and in five minutes had the complaisance to let me into all his concerns, which puts me in mind of ÆSOP and the Frenchman in LETHE. This is wonderful and surprizing! Vonderefool and surprizang, cries the Frenchman, Vat is vonderefool and surprizang, dat I should borrow de monee? No, says the other, that any body should lend it you. In respect to the second-hand Scotch gentry, in which DUMFRIES apes the cheap towns, as they are called, in ENGLAND it is literally the shadow of a shade.

As my journey in SCOTLAND upon this occasion was of some extent, I shall proceed somewhat methodically and note all I learnt on my way, as well as all I saw. DUMFRIES as a county is large and populous. It is about fifty miles in length and where broadest about thirty. It is bounded on the north by the shires of LANARK and PEEBLES; on the south by the Solway-Frith, which separates it from ENGLAND, and on the east by the shires of SELKIRK and ROXBURGH. The rivers gives their names to the different districts of the county. They are called the Annan, the Nith, and the Esk: hence ANNANDALE which comprehends the middle division, NITHSDALE the west, and ESKDALE the east. The town of DUMFRIES is situated in a pleasant and extensive vale, and, on the banks of the Nith. About a mile from the town is a rock curiously hollowed, for, or by, the Druids as

it is said, and about which has been sported almost as much incomprehensible intelligence as about STONEHENGE upon SALISBURY-PLAIN.

A great deal is said about the urbanity of manners in the inhabitants, on which subject if the above intelligence be true, one might quote a line from one of GARRICK'S prologues, and say, " A fellow feeling makes us wond'rous kind." I could not persuade myself but that the reverse is the fact. At the same time it is but justice to declare that from a few individuals I experienced most handsome and liberal treatment. On the fourth of June I left DUMFRIES where great preparations were making to celebrate that event at which every Briton has so much reason to rejoice. Its recollection conferred redoubled satisfaction on that particular day, from the recent and merciful interference of Providence in favour of our beloved king and father, not that I mention this as any deduction of loyalty in the Scotch, for I must do them the justice to acknowledge that the tokens of their public duty appeared always to me warm, hearty, and unequivocal.

I dined at BROWNHILL in the most comfortable way that can possibly be conceived. Every thing was so wholesome and neat, that, if I had never been at KESWICK, I should have called this the cleanest little inn I ever saw. From BROWNHILL I began to get a sight of the felix part of SCOTLAND, for it certainly has in a great measure the two distinctions of ARABIA. The land towards SANQUHAR gets more lofty at every step, and in going over the hills it is easily evident that there is more ground to climb than to descend, and during all this time the road awkwardly imitates the meandering Nith, which wantons in the vallies below in a still more romantic manner than the Esk. One of the happiest effects I think that I have taken is the surrounding country about four miles on this side of SANQUHAR. The sun was almost concealed behind a hill to the left, which is my favorite position for a broad light; but on the opposite page the subject will speak for itself.

SANQUHAR is supposed to stand three-thousand feet above the level of the sea, and this may serve to shew that all height is comparative; for, if this is the real

altitude of the land at the head of DUMFRIESHIRE, which is only two-hundred and forty feet less than the summit of BEN LOMOND, and two-hundred and seventy lower than SKIDDAW, the prospects from those immense mountains are purely accidental, and owing to their seperation from large tracts of continued land, while such situations as SANQUHAR, where the rise is gradual for a number of miles, though now and then masses are commanded at prodigious distances, there is always a perfect unconsciousness of superior elevation as to objects near at hand. This fact I experienced as we moved on towards AYR, during which progress the roads were the reverse of what they had been coming from DUMFRIES, the descents were longer than the rises, and about nine miles from AYR, there being now no land to obstruct our view, ARRAN in a large majestic body came in sight, with BUTE on the right, the little ISLE of AILSA on the left, and the county of KINTYRE like a vapour playing on the surface of the sea.

SANQUHAR is situated like some of the towns in CORNWALL. The hills are barren and rugged, and denote like the rock oyster that they are valuable within. Coal, lime, and lead are plentifully found in the mines about this neighbourhood. The limestone has been spoken of, like every thing which begets more curiosity than sober attention as to its extraordinary variety; one circumstance is the old story of the cockle-shells and their evidence of the deluge, a matter which one would suppose historians had better rest upon its general proof lest the incredulous should defend themselves by saying that the weakest causes are those which require most to be advocated. The carpet manufactory I believe is established in some degree at SANQUHAR. I saw however no great symptoms of opulence, and all the old men were sitting at the doors knitting stockings.

I cannot resist this opportunity of reprobating in the strongest terms the revolting, not to say indecent practice in the women of going without shoes and stockings. There can be no motive for it, and, however custom may have inured them to endure it, nothing can prevail on me to believe that it is done by inclination; and, indeed, were not that admitted it must involve something more than a suspicion that Scotch women have an inclination to be very beastly, which is really not the case, for their manners though free

like the French, are in general artless enough, and yet, if not to inclination, to what can this strange unfemine custom be owing? It is not to distress, for I have seen women, whom I should have supposed, by their white dresses, caps, and veils, had been tricked out for a public place, had I not by accident cast my eyes upon two liver-coloured columns, for Scotch legs are pretty stout, supported by what nature had intended for human feet, but what, by the weight of the body, and by various strains and contusions, were distorted into ugly form and monstrous disproportion.

As I had not myself the smallest idea of this fact before I went to Scotland, I am afraid I shall be suspected by some of exaggeration in noticing it here. I had seen the *poissardes* in France, and the washerwomen of Lorraine, in comparison with whom the nymphs of Billingsgate are in their manners, purity, and innocence; and I was not very much astonished when I found, among the poorest peasants in Scotland, this evidence of their low estate. But as even in France, where ladies of the first distinction, while they are affecting all the assumed delicacy of coquettes, make no scruple, upon particular subjects, of speaking with a plainness which would stagger an English carman, none but the very dregs of the people thus expose themselves; and, as in England even the very fishwomen know delicacy better. I must confess that nothing could equal my surprise when I saw the capital of Scotland, and those beautiful streets which compose the New Town, paraded by a prodigious number of unshod and unstockened ladies; who, whatever idea at first sight they might convey of beasts, seemed determined to do away all such suspicion by giving ocular demonstration that they were bipeds.

It may be easily conceived that, if at the capital almost all the servants, and many of the inferior tradesmen's wives and daughters, go without shoes and stockings, the operation must be pretty general throughout the kingdom. In Glasgow, where there is a large pump in the middle of Argyll-street, there are perpetual crowds of women paddling in the water, some of whom have to carry their pitchers up perhaps four or five stories. Indeed, so prevalent is the custom, that even those who, from a desire to rank better than their neighbours, indulge them-

selves in the luxury of arming their feet and legs against briars and tenpenny nails, are very sparing of their finery, and never fail to walk bare-foot till they arrive at the outskirts of a town, where, by the side of some rivulet, after having performed the necessary ceremony of ablution, they equip themselves in these ensigns of superiority, and trot on, consciously regarding all the bare-foot tribe as their inferiors.*

This is the more extraordinary, something like a sandal having never been neglected among the most barbarous nations, and this security is the more necessary, because, take the matter anatomically, and it will easily be seen that this practice, instead of bracing and strengthening the action of the human body, will necessarily debilitate it; for there is an understanding from the hip to the toes, which is altogether technically called the great foot; and, that this intelligence may be correct every where, the strength or bearer is divided between the heel and the ball of the foot, the intermediate part forming a hollow, so that the boby stands upon two columns, and each column upon an arch, which, by its formation, is the strongest possible foundation, on which natural or artificial structures can be built; and, as the foot is flattened to a surface by a constant exposition of its face to the ground, in contradistinction to the operation of a shoe, which favours nature by keeping the whole form in a circular position, the hips are kept upon a continual strain, till, in their common walking, these ladies waddle like ducks, and in dancing their reels, they grind themselves like negroes. I am the more angry at this custom, because the men, while they suffer all this, take good care themselves to wear comfortable shoes and stockings.

It will be impossible for me to go out of my route to examine the different counties I visited in SCOTLAND minutely. I have said that the declivity from SANQUHAR towards AYR was frequently interrupted by short hills, and it might be com-

* I should suppose they don't escape sometimes that sort of taunting which is common among the negroes in the West Indies. The moment a negro, who is perhaps on his way to purchase his freedom, gets into a pair of shoes, the rest begin to spar at him. "Ah, dam you hart, you tink you dam creber fellow. You tink you tan like a "buckra. You no neger, no buckra, no any ting."

pared to Salisbury Plain through a magnifying glass, attended, however, with much more various and extensive scenery, and a continual relief of mountainous objects, generally of magnificent appearance. The charming effect of Arran, and all its appendages, which, at the distance of from thirty to forty miles, arose in sober grandeur, exhibited a very interesting finish to the various ground views that presented themselves, especially when we could get a glimpse of the sea, and the town of Ayr, with its curious churches, as we approached it, broke in upon this fine distance in a novel and admirable manner.

The county of Ayr is not large, but it has been rendered, by the agricultural spirit in which a constant emulation has been kept up by the opulent landholders and noblemen, a place of triple the importance, perhaps more, than it could boast fifty years ago, which I shall hereafter go into more at large. It is bounded on the south by the shires of Wigton and Kircudbright, on the west by the Irish Channel and the Frith of Clyde, on the north by Renfrewshire, and on the east by Lanarkshire. From its extreme points it measures about fifty miles, and where broadest about twenty. The river Ayr, taking its rise from the mountains on the east, gives its name to the county, and in a manner divides it into two parts. The district lying on the north of the river is called Kyle, or Cunningham, and from Loch Doon issues the river Doon, which runs nearly parallel to the Ayr, forming another district more southerly called Carrick.

If I have found it inconvenient, according to my plan, to go into antiquity in England, it would be still less to my purpose to pursue so uncertain a road in Scotland. Cities in general are of ancient origin, and Ayr is one of that description. It has a cheerful and busy appearance. It has at times been a place of warlike resort, and was a celebrated place of strength in the wars, well known to historians, of William Wallace. It has been since a place of considerable trade, which, aided by its importance as a sea-port, gave it consequence enough to stand up as a proud rival to Glasgow; but it was too weak to cut a figure in any such contention. It was a dwarf combating a giant, and the failure of their bank was a consequence that might reasonably have been suspected. Thus when this humble imitation of the Mississipi Company in France, and the

South Sea Company in ENGLAND, turned out a bubble, no wonder they received a shock which required more than their pigmy strength to overcome.

It had this good effect, however. The proprietors of the bank, who naturally attached themselves to the spot, reared plantations, opened roads, and let in agriculture at every avenue; and, as old estates in a delapidated condition were sold, proprietors, who came with fortunes from INDIA, bought, repaired, and ornamented them. From this time it became a favourite spot for agricultural experiments, most of which have wonderfully answered, and AYR and its vicinity, when I was there, wore an air of spirit and chearfulness which seem to argue an encrease of industry and resources, and consequently wealth and opulence.

It has been remarked that the inhabitants of AYR give a stronger idea of those at DUMFRIES and EDINBURGH, than PERTH and GLASGOW. I should not, if I was one of them, take this for a compliment. It is too superficial to be worth acceptance. DUMFRIES is full of frivolity, and EDINBURGH of course has its share, while these counters in manners are of too little value to pass current at GLASGOW and PERTH, which last is my favourite place of all that I have seen in SCOTLAND. AYR has no necessity of calling in the aid of comparison to assist its consequence. Many noblemen and gentlemen of very considerable fortunes either reside or are connected in its vicinity. I had myself a string of nearly thirty persons of this description, headed by the Duke of BUCCLEUGH, at one visit. In short, it has at this time completely emancipated from all its difficulties, and, with property and rank ready to assist it, I should not wonder if in twenty years it became a rival to GLASGOW in commerce, and to EDINBURGH in fashion.

Your's, my dear Sir,

Leicester-Place, with great esteem,

Jan. 19, 1802. C. DIBDIN.

LETTER LXIII.

GLASGOW and LOCH-LOMOND.

DR. GARNETT

MY DEAR SIR,

I LEFT AYR on Sunday the eighth of June, took a snack at KILMARNOCK, and drank tea at GLASGOW. The numbers of barefoot ladies we met, with caps valuable enough each to have bought half a dozen pair of shoes were astonishing. It would certainly add considerably to the consequence of SCOTLAND if this horrid custom were abolished. I don't care for any thing else, even though there is one radical objection to that country perhaps more revolting than this. It is not however the business of any traveller to go from home for the sake of cavilling, and I should be obnoxious to what I have myself reprobated, if I were to adopt a conduct of this description; but I could not resist putting in a caveat against this glaring outrage on propriety; and, so they will but promise me not to shock the eye sight of strangers in future, I will give them free permission to gratify their olfactory nerves in any way they may think proper.

LANARK as a county is for its size remarkably populous. It is bounded on the east by the shires of WEST LOTHIAN and STIRLING, by DUMBARTONSHIRE on the north, by RENFREW and AYRSHIRES on the west, and DUMFRIES and EDINBURGH on

the south. It measures about forty miles by thirty-five. The river Clyde rises in the south-east part of the county; and, after running and sometimes bounding in most beautiful cascades through the whole of it, falls into the sea at Greenock. The rivers Tweed and Annan rise nearly from the same source, and, as they both take opposite courses, the land beyond Hamilton on to Lanark, which has no very distant communication with that large upland track I have already noticed near Sanquhar, must by this proof be the highest in all the south-west division of Scotland.

Though I must refer my readers to your book if they would see an accurate and entertaining description of the falls of the Clyde, yet it would be wrong to omit a concise account of them here, in which however, though I never saw them, I shall not become a plagiarist. Distances are very clearly known upon good maps, and intelligent Scotchmen are always to be found, who are seldom gifted with the traveller's talent. Assisted by these I copy from my diary, which was written before I received so much pleasure and instruction from your work.

It has been generally the custom for those who visit the falls of the Clyde to begin their journey from Glasgow, which is, as I understand, full of variety and romantic beauty almost every where after the first seven miles, by which time you will have crossed the river Calder. Bothwell-Castle in ruins, and the Priory of Blantyre make no doubt good features in the general picture; but it is probable even had I seen them I should not have dwelt long upon them. Hamilton-Palace for the same reason I shall quit to get into the well-known vale of Clyde, which has been so frequently and so ably celebrated that I cannot but believe it possesses all those enchanting charms that have been attributed to it.

Mauldslie-Castle, the woodlands of Milton, the situation of the bridge at the Nethan, with its neighbouring glen and immense rocks, where stands the Castle of Draffen, the retreat of Mary Queen of Scots after her escape from the Castle of Loch-Leven, cannot but fill the mind with reflections of that sober and solid kind which are one of its best pleasures. These are relieved by a view of Lanark steeple at the distance of a few miles, which contemplation is inter-

rupted by a murmur containing a summons to the fall of STONEBYRES, the way to which is presently afterwards pointed out by a finger-post, and a convenient gravel-walk presently brings the traveller to a station where he may view with perfect safety this celebrated waterfall, which is a single and almost perpendicular stream of fifty-eight feet, about three fourths the height of the large cascade at RYDAL; but what renders this fall infinitely more terrific is that the volume of water comprehends the whole width of the Clyde; and, though the fall is but fifty-eight feet, the resistance of such a body by the rocks must create a foam and a spray of an aspect even more tremendous than the fall itself.

LANARK is remarkable for being built on an eminence two-hundred and ninety-two feet above the level of the Clyde, and by calculation six-hundred and fifty-six feet above the quay at the NEW-BRIDGE at GLASGOW, so that the river has plenty of opportunity to play its pranks before it can reach the place of its destination, and to say the truth wherever I have seen it nothing can be more beautifully varied than its aspect. It is at the choice of travellers whether they keep the high road in their carriages till they pass the House of BONNYTON, in the immediate neighbourhood of CORRA LINN, or send forward their carriages and proceed by a foot-path on a gradual descent of some hundred yards till they come to a precipice, where all of a sudden they are surprised with a view of NEW LANARK, and DALE's cotton-mills.

It would be unpardonable not to give a brief account of these mills, and the ingenious, worthy, and patriotic founder of them. The first, which is a hundred and fifty-four feet long, twenty-seven wide, and sixty high, was built in 1785. It was consumed by accidental fire, in 1788, and rebuilt in 1789. The second is of the same dimensions. The third is smaller, and the fourth the largest of all. The two mills which were first built contain twelve-thousand spindles for spinning water twists, and the other two are entirely occupied by jennies for spinning of mull yarn. These jennies are supposed to have been the first that were invented, and if this be true ARKWRIGHT could not have stolen his *soi-disant* invention from a man at MANCHESTER, as it is generally believed.

The numbers of persons employed at this work I understand to be about fourteen hundred, and of these about five hundred are children. The good sense, consideration, and care laid down as the basis for conducting this large concern, cannot be too much admired. The precautions which are taken to keep the children in health, to see that their food is wholesome and nutritious, to allot a portion of time for the improvement and expansion of their minds, in which the girls are taught sewing, and the boys writing and arithmetic, and this in classes as at St. Omer's. In short, there is not a moment misapplied, and so well have these wholesome regulations operated to the common advantage of this government of human ants, that in thirteen years, during which time three thousand children have been employed, not one has been punished judicially, and only fourteen have died.

It is extremely difficult to find language strong enough to express an adequate admiration of actions like these, and therefore the truest justice that can be done is to let them speak their own eulogium, which, after all, will probably explain itself to the world more intelligibly than to Mr. Dale, who seems as if he felt nothing more than a necessity of administering to the benefit and comfort of those whose exertions have benefited and comforted him, and this must be a compliment more congenial to a mind which, like his, displays no ostentation, makes no parade, invites no admiration, than a thousand studied and flattering encomiums, because he who deals in such actions knows little the value of such words, and because the silent benedictions of the grateful are the most eloquent of all praise. I think you tell us that these mills have been purchased by another gentleman. May he, and it is impossible to pay him a higher compliment, tread in the steps of his predecessor.

I understand that when, from this seat of industry, the traveller has passed to the western extremity of Bonnyton, an immense subterraneous aqueduct presents itself, through which, from the river, the water is conveyed for the purpose of giving motion to the vast mass of machinery contained in the mills. Next a small cascade is discerned, called Dundaff Linn, and at length by a thick vapour,

which rides slowly from the water, loses itself in the atmosphere, and irradiates the clouds with all the various hues of the rainbow, though, for the best physica reasons, this cannot always be the case, in a coarse and tremulous noise, the famous CORRA LINN proclaims itself to be at no great distance. By your glowing description of it, as well as every thing I have heard, it must certainly be a most majestic object. Mr. PENNANT'S expression, that the rocks resemble "a "stupendous natural masonry," is very full and comprehensive, but it conveys to my mind an idea of too great regularity. The three cataracts, which are formed into one when the river is completely full, is also STONYBYRES upon a larger scale, which some have preferred to this celebrated fall. The infinite variety of trees and underwood which skirt the rocks, the very description of which puts me correctly in mind of LOWDORE, clearly stamps a pre-eminence in favour of CORRA LINN.

The height of LOWDORE, being, I suppose, a third more than CORRA LINN, which is but eighty feet, the CUMBERLAND cataract, in its greatest state, must, for force and celebrity, exceed the LANARK one; but, when it is considered, as in the instance of STONYBYRES, that it takes in the whole width of the Clyde, it cannot be doubted but that, as an object of magnificence and immensity, CORRA LINN greatly excels LOWDORE. I have a very strong reason to believe this representation to be a fact, at least in my judgement. I have seen LOWDORE, and I never saw any thing but drawings of CORRA LINN. Nature draws better than painters, and I like CORRA LINN best. Every thing else of the falls of the Clyde would be an anti-climax, and therefore I shall return to GLASGOW; and, leaving turbulence for tranquillity, beg the favour of your company as far as BELRETIRO, on the banks of Loch Lomond.

As a visit to Loch Lomond had been some time in my contemplation, I longed for it as a glutton longs for a feast. Lest, however, I should gorge too greedily, I was obliged to swallow a damper before I set out. I make my man say, who could not find his way to WHITECHAPEL, that if any thing could make his heart recoil, his blood freeze in his veins, and agitate his whole frame from top to toe,

it would be the horrid circumstance of seeing a man hanged.* We lodged in Argyll-street, and had been informed that at three o'clock a man was to be hanged for a burglary. We therefore ordered the carriage at two, that we might be some miles off before the exhibition of so shocking a spectacle should take

* By the way, the fact I there relate happened to me. I was returning from a long morning's walk I had been taking with a friend; and, having to go to CHELSEA from the BOROUGH, I was in the action of calling a coach, when a prodigious crowd pressed upon us, and we instantly discerned a cart conveying a man to be hanged at KENNINGTON Common. I could not avoid seeing him very closely, and I confess I was greatly shocked, I ought to mention that the JACK KETCH sat by the side of him with a drawn sword, a thing I believe not common. This was two and twenty years ago. I never was so eager in my life to get into a coach. I did so at last, and told the man to drive to CHELSEA; but while my friend and I were congratulating each other on our escape from this scene of tumult and horror, we found ouselves again among the crowd. The very words passed that I relate in my entertainment. "Where "the devil are you going?" said I to the coachman. "Going! why, to see the man hanged to be sure." "Turn round "directly, and drive to CHELSEA, or——" "Why then I tells you, I does not go nowhere but to see the "man hanged." In short, we got out of his coach, and made the best of our way to find another. Thus far what I related in the Sphinx was true, but the real story finished with a better point than I could there introduce. The next morning, while we were talking of our adventure, and execrating the coachman for his want of feeling, I took up the newspaper, and found, to Mr. WHIP'S complete disappointment, the poor man had been reprieved at the gallows.

There was an understrapper at Drury-lane Theatre of the name of CLOUGH, who, when I was a member of it, used to amuse those who would listen to him with some very edifying particulars in this way. He would insist, and I believe his information was pretty just, that thieves in this country are so far from being checked in their approach to the gallows, that they go on methodically, professionally, step by step, till they are what the informers call worth forty pounds. Nay, I have understood, I believe from credible information, that, in order to render them perfectly unconcerned as to their fate, they have meetings, where they are tried, cast, condemned, executed, put into their coffins, and afterwards brought to life; and, as all this indifference is inculcated from their infancy, they talk as naturally, and with as much unconcern, of their death-bed at TYBURN as a sailor leaps into that hammock in which he may be sewed up, or a sensualist enters between sarcenet sheets to press that mountain of down on which he is born to become a prey to the gout or the stone. Mr. CLOUGH used to say that thieves were encouraged by the runners of rotation offices till, in their own language, "their time was come;" and that, to inure them to their certain fate, they never failed to attend executions. He told a story of one of those, who used to be so much favoured as now and then to be permitted, for love, to tie the knot. When his own hanging day arrived, he looked up at the clock with the utmost unconcern, and said to one of his companions, "I say, GEORGE, I think we are rather late to-day." There was something philosophical in Master CLOUGH, and he was no fool. It only happened that this was the amusement most to his mind. His stories of the placid indifference with which these poor wretches submit to their fate were numerous, and every one of them proved, that if strong habit and example had not confirmed in them a belief as riveted as that of soldiers and sailors as to their fate in battle, that they were predestined to the gibbet, many of them, by being roused to their rational duties through the vigilance of the police, might become useful members of society. The institution for the succour of children born of infamous parents is a most noble idea. We hear but little of its operations; if they are efficacious, it is impossible to give it too much encouragement.

place. You know of course that executions of this description take place at the front of the TOLBOOTH, which is about the centre of the street. Most astonishing crowds had been gathering for some time. We therefore dispatched a snack as fast as possible, and every thing attended us at two. We got into the street, when, whether it was that the people had misinformed us, or that the time had been changed for any particular purpose, in our way to the carriage it was impossible to avoid seeing the poor wretch dangling in the midst of the gaping multitude.

I never could understand the nature of that gratification which is received by seeing a fellow creature convulsed and struggling in the agonies of a violent death. I know that it has been considered as a true and genuine taste for English amusement. A cock-fight is pretty well, a bull-baiting still better; but a hanging match!—I do not find, however, that the curiosity of the Scotch is a whit behind that of the English. I have no doubt but there were twenty-thousand people to witness the deplorable fate of this poor man. I have no objection that an execution should be awful, and in FRANCE, when I was there, the ring formed by the soldiery, the procession of penitent nuns, and other ceremonies of a piece with these, gave an appropriate solemnity to that act which cut off an unworthy member of society. I must confess, however, I did not like their obliging children to be present, for wherever the seeds of vice are sown, a familiarity with its ultimate punishment will so operate that in the end the heart will become callous and indifferent to all consequences, and if the disposition is naturally turned to virtue, so terrible an admonition is unnecessary.

For about five miles this subject naturally occupied us, during which time we had nothing very material to take off our attention. Neither the print field at ANDERSTON, PATRICK with its extensive mills and granaries belonging to the bakers at GLASGOW, JORDAN-HILL, nor any other objects that presented themselves to us, had power to drive this melancholy from our minds, nor indeed were we completely in a cue for pleasure, till as, if conscious that we needed a stimulus, we saw all at once the opening from DALNOTTER-HILL, with DUMBBUCK, DUMBARTON-ROCK, for the castle is at that place concealed, the winding Clyde and the exten-

sive distance beyond PORT-GLASGOW and GREENOCK, which formed altogether a most beautiful and striking effect. All other considerations became suspended; out came the pencil, and plate 15 in the first volume will declare to what purpose. At this time a light shower was passing off, which gave a pearly and sober appearance to the view, massing the objects together and softening down all outlines.

Having atchieved this feat, we bad adieu to DALNOTTER and its extensive ironworks, and came to KILPATRICK, where according to tradition was born the tutelary saint of IRELAND. FRISMIE-HALL next attracted us, and the small temple situated on the summit of a precipice. Presently DUNGLASS was seen near the Clyde, and soon after with the castle in view we rode on at the foot of DUMBBUCK, and at length arrived at DUMBARTON. I cannot say that the castle or the rock on which it is situated, appeared to have charms enough for me, and though it might have been the scene of some of WALLACE's most illustrious actions, though it might have been taken in a masterly manner by surprize, or indeed undergone ever so great a variety of changes, it appeared to me a dull mishapen lump, a broken vestige, and a sad memento of the mutability of human greatness.

The next morning, June the eleventh, we set out as early as possible to take a peep at LOCH-LOMOND. We crossed the Leven by a handsome bridge; and, leaving the road on our left which leads to ARROQUHAR by LOCH-GAIR, and LOCH-LONG, we pursued that leading to LUSS. It being now full summer I was delighted with alternate views of the industry of nature and the industry of art. Infinite objects of fertility manifested one, and hundreds of labourers and artificers in the print fields and iron works the other; all seeming to court the approbation of the smiling Leven, which glided on in that placid majesty SMOLLET so well describes; at whose monument, at the entrance of RENTON, a village, where stand the habitations of these sons of industry, we now arrived.

Nothing is more becoming or more honourable to any nation than these tributes of respect to the memories of great men, especially, as BUONAPARTE has it, if their merits and actions should be consecrated by the approbation of posterity. This is, however, a warped and a partial criterion, and the jesuitical answer was worthy the empty adulation that provoked it. Nothing could be more easy than to name statues and monuments that posterity might blush to own, at the same time that men of the best genius and virtues by which the world has been improved and delighted moulder in obscurity without a stone to point out their sacred remains. A long list of these might be easily enumerated in which would be found in conspicuous characters the names of FIELDING and ARNE. The erection of SMOLLET's monument did honour to his relation. For my own part I had rather such things were done by the nation at large, and, yet where is the fund capable of defraying the expence which would be incurred if the deserts of every great and meritorious Briton were thus commemorated.

The entrance to RENTON with the column erected to SMOLLET, partly hid among the trees has a very sweet effect. I took a sketch of it, and meant to have introduced it, but I could not put in every thing. Having passed this village, I began to warm with anxiety as we approached to the lake, and at each opening every one of us was full of that expectation which those who pretend to a perfect knowledge of mankind think a better thing than enjoyment. A man, however, may as well say that we are happier asleep than awake. For my part, I like something in hand, as Mrs. DYE says, and so I may enjoy a comfortable residence upon terra firma, I most freely give up all pretensions to fanciful speculations and castles in the air, in favour of those who are fonder of dreaming. This, however, is rather from the purpose, because the expectations here excited were sure to be gratified in their fullest extent.

It was a beautiful morning, and, taking a sudden turn upon a height, the lake in one moment opened like a mirror with BEN-LOMOND, though at the distance of nineteen miles, apparently reclining on its bosom. On the right a massy hill with plantations, villas, and other rich and diversified objects at its foot and on its brow, served to make a bold approach to the foreground, to

which in extensive grandeur the various tracts of land and clumps of trees in increasing continuity presented all the beautiful correctness of natural perspective. This is the view I have given in the first volume, and the situation is the best, which I shall ever contend, for that sort of effect with which the mind is most satisfied; for while it looks down upon the water, perhaps, thirty perpendicular feet, it does not rob the mountains comparatively of any part of their altitude. I climbed a very high hill about a mile beyond Belretiro, on purpose to get the lake and its islands in a bird's-eye view; but it would not do: the lakes were all spots and the mountains were all crouching, and how ludicrous it must be to see Ben-Lomond crouch.

I can easily conceive how those who pant after endless variety are soon satiated with nature in Scotland. The objects are never so tremendous as they are majestic, and this arises from their possessing such immense extent, that it is physically impossible to discern many of them at a time, all which precludes any great diversity. This, however, to sober and contemplative minds demands in my opinion a pre-eminent preference; the mountains that hem in Loch-Lomond and open a passage to the Highlands, which seldom consist of more than three or four satellites to Ben-Lomond, and the Ochil-Hills, which are linked together in an immense chain, and which begin in grandeur and lessen to a point, have something in them awfully impressive, and form a picture whose amplitude is full of mind, whose beauties are correct taste, whose style is the true sublime, and must be painted with that soft blending which is nature's best handling.

A great deal might be said on this, but it cannot be by me, for my movements are fugitive, and my objects are various. I shall therefore content myself with saying that at Belretiro I took a view of the lake and its islands in a situation that according to my idea constitutes their best general effect, which view will come in here, and, after noticing that my tour has more and more confirmed me that the infinite beauty of Westmoreland, the romantic grandeur of Cumberland, and the sober majesty of Scotland, possess a thousand times

more exquisite attractions than the skill of a thousand artists could express, I shall resume the thread of my alloted task, and checquer the manners of nature by a review of the manners of men.

Yours, my dear sir,

Leicester-Place, with the truest esteem,

Jan. 24, 1802. C. DIBDIN.

LETTER LXIV.

STIRLING and KINROSS.

Dr. GARNETT.

DEAR SIR,

As I saw no more of DUMBARTONSHIRE than what fell under my observation in my visit to LOCH-LOMOND, I cannot be expected to give any very elaborate description of it. Indeed it is a very inconsiderable county, and remarkable for little more than taking in those towns and villages which are bounded by STIRLINGSHIRE, ARGYLESHIRE, and the Lakes, and thus embracing some of the most deservedly celebrated situations for beauty and effect in SCOTLAND, as well as impressing the traveller with an idea of wealth and industry in a contemplation of iron works and manufactures.

I returned to GLASGOW on the thirteenth; and, on the following day, set out for PAISLEY, the approach to which town is very inviting. I have had many occasions to notice the beautiful spires in SCOTLAND; those in GLASGOW are wonderfully striking. ST. ANDREWS in the New Town of EDINBURGH, that at GREENOCK, and in particular those of PAISLEY: all these are fine distant objects, but they appear too much as if they had sprouted up when you look at them from the streets. Their height is generally incomprehensible, and the architects who had the skill

to raise them must have had infinite professional knowledge, as well as admirable taste, for there are no two alike, and yet they must have been all erected upon one principle.

PAISLEY was formerly, indeed I believe till within these fifty years, an inconsiderable village. The first symptom of expectation that took place in this town was the discontent that prevailed in the manufactures of SPITALFIELDS, PAISLEY becoming at that time to them what they had before become to LYONS. Indeed, manufactures in every part of ENGLAND took the same hint, and, filled with this migrating propensity, went gradually north. YORKSHIRE cherished many of the fugitives; HALIFAX, LEEDS, and other towns, grew into great reputation in clothiery, and other trades, established themselves as encouragement and convenience impelled them. PAISLEY grew presently adroit in the manufacture of slight silks; gauzes and ribbons were made there in great perfection; and, as one species of ingenuity leads to another, lawns and cambrics were taken up with encreased success.

At length, when the cotton manufactory became a general source of profitable speculation, and especially when, through the invention of Sir RICHARD ARKWRIGHT, for we must admit this till some specific fact be offered to undeceive us, began to simplify spinning by means of mill machinery, PAISLEY was as forward as other places in taking advantage of pursuing this road to riches, and nothing can sum up so clearly the effect of this industry and perseverance as the encrease of its inhabitants, which in fifty years have grown from about nine hundred to at least five and twenty thousand.

On the fifteenth I arrived at GREENOCK. The ride is delightful, and the view from the opposite shore of DUMBARTON castle, the town, and the mountains behind it, which even there retain their exact shapes, are grand, and would be perfect, were it not that you see LOCH-LOMOND only in fancy. GREENOCK is a spirited sea-port, but I was disappointed in consequence of my expectations having been too much raised. I was taught to believe I should see another LIVERPOOL. Hyperbole of this description is natural, but it is ridiculous; I had not found any

symptoms of gross exaggeration in the Scotch, except indeed in the articles of birth, dignity, and learning, and therefore I was, I must confess, disappointed here. GREENOCK is well calculated for trade, and will no doubt improve as a sea-port, with the great advantage of being situated so near GLASGOW and PAISLEY. As it is, I should not wonder if PORT-GLASGOW had nearly as essential a part of exportation.

On our return from GREENOCK to PAISLEY, which gave us the reverse of the view from DALNOTTER-HILL, with the Castle near, and DUNBUCK in the distance, the objects of course wore a new face. I took a sketch of PORT-GLASGOW, which looked as if it wanted to be painted by VANDEVELT. Indeed I took several sketches, both on this road and near LOCH-LOMOND, which will long serve me as private memorandums of many beautiful subjects. I was disappointed in one instance; for, having intended to minute down the effect of the approach to PAISLEY from GLASGOW, I lost my opportunity by means of a thick haze, which completely rendered the town invisible.

There is nothing remarkable in the ride from PAISLEY to GLASGOW but the air of business and cheerfulness, which is every where diffused. The highway is crowded, and LANCASTER and YORKSHIRE instantly occur to you. On the eigteenth I left GLASGOW, and set out for STIRLING by the way of CUMBERNAULD. There is nothing very interesting till you arrive within about five miles of STIRLING; at least we thought so, who had been perhaps spoiled by too much indulgence in this way. As you approach STIRLING, you get insensibly an idea that you are going to EDINBURGH; but the moment you come within sight of the CASTLE, which is seated on a very elevated and commanding situation, the resemblance ceases, for it becomes the only grand object, whereas the CASTLE of EDINBURGH is one among a great number of grand objects.

The castle is certainly an immense building. It stands upon a rock, ascending from a plain on the south-west, to a prodigious height on the north-east. There it rests upon a fearfully precipitous crag, where monstrous fragments of rocks seem to threaten destruction to those underneath. The CASTLE contains a palace,

a chapel, a parliament-house, and a riding-school; the whole, when I was there, had been turned into a garrison, manned however only by a few invalid soldiers. The prospect from the battlements, which every body goes to see, contains every thing that has been related of it. The extent seems measureless, and the objects innumerable; but I think if a ground plan of the scene were laid down upon paper it would be easier comprehended, and nobody would get the head-ache; besides, on the battlements you must turn yourself round to get all the whole view, and therefore your gratification is partial and in pieces, whereas upon paper you would see it altogether.

I very much wished to have gone by CALLANDER to the TROSSACKS and LOCH-CATHERINE, especially as the perusal of your Tour had given me so much inclination to see those extraordinary objects; but my plan was circumscribed, and I was so situated that it was impossible to encroach upon it. I was therefore obliged to content myself with taking KINROSS and LOCH-LEVEN in my way to PERTH, and I cannot say I repented my resolution; for it presented me with such interesting novelty, and such continual variety, that I know not if it did not leave on my mind the recollection of pleasure in a more gratifying way than any I ever experienced. Four views, which must have place here, will give a most striking proof that it is scarcely possible on the face of nature to find any four and twenty miles so rich, so admirable, and so various, and yet they make only a part of seven views, equally striking, which I took on that extraordinary day.

I beg I may not be thought to arrogate any merit to myself in depicting these scenes. I confess they are full of singular beauty, even as they are here faithfully, though perhaps bunglingly, copied from nature. To explain them in this place, particularly if I endeavoured to go the length of attempting a description equal to what I felt at that time, would be impossible. I may, however, give some strength to their effect by narrating, as it were, my ideas on the occasion.

When I set out from STIRLING, it was a hazy, doubtful morning, a circumstance sometimes favourable and sometimes disadvantageous to a painter. There

is upon some occasions, however, a softness, and what may be called a reflected clearness in what is generally denominated a Scotch mist, which, by taking off the edge of outline, introduces body and grandeur. The effect of that morning was exactly of that description, and the struggle of the sun to break through this hanging humidity, threw now and then a glow over the pearly atmosphere, that gave a massy and broad effect of chiaro oscuro which no other time or season can command, particularly as the hues, very forward, gave the middle tint and the distance an infinite softness. In the print opposite this page, which is a simple delineation of the OCHILL-HILLS, that continue in a chain, and gradually recede from the eye, I have endeavoured to preserve this idea.

From the inn at DOLLAR, which is about half way to KINROSS, we had a very plain view of CAMPBELL-CASTLE, or, as it was anciently called, the CASTLE of GLOOM, which is truly descriptive of its solemn and lonely appearance. I have frequently said that I like ruins best at a distance, but at present it would have been impossible to have approached this abode of melancholy had I been so inclined; but having enquired out the direction to where I might make a drawing of it, with the advantage of taking the water in the bottom, which is constantly fed by two rivulets that precipitate their streams into it, by which means so large a body was once collected as to insulate the whole hill on the summit of which the CASTLE stands, I got at length an excellent station for my purpose.

I had something, however, to seek. The objects being all grand and all of a colour, or rather all colourless, I was determined to keep the outline and fancy the effect; and, as nothing could be more obvious than that, if ever subject was calculated for moonlight it must be CASTLE of GLOOM, I determined to give it all the silent and quiet solemnity which that season is so capable of describing. Accordingly here you have it in all the awful grace of midnight melancholy. It stands upon one of the OCHIL-HILLS, but neither history nor tradition has given it any original owner. It has been in the possession of the Duke of ARGYLL'S family as far back as 1465.

I had come out with a determination to see CALDRON LINN on the river Devan, which is composed of two falls of water, that, precipitating themselves very suddenly, convey some effect of an immense caldron or boiler, but the approach to them, without being completely wet through, was impracticable, owing to the bent rushes and wet grass with which every passage is completely choaked up; I therefore forewent my curiosity, and contented myself with jogging on till I got near the rumbling bridge. A lady of distinction, however, well equipped for the purpose, who laughed at me for not gratifying myself at so trifling an expence, and informed me that she had come there like me to take drawings and write a tour, with great courage braved all impediments, and dashed into the midst of the rushes, where I left her up to the neck, and, I should suppose, in the right road to damp her ardour for cataracts.

By the time we had arrived within a field or two of the rumbling bridge, attended by a Scotch peasant, who had assured us that the *shure* would be *auver* in a *whee*, in which he was a faithful prophet, we determined to walk and see this phænomenon, which is horrid enough, for it is a single arch thrown across an immense chasm, over which we were desired to walk as much of possible in the middle, lest approaching too near to the edges, which have no barrier, the unfaithful ground should give way and plunge us into the abyss beneath. This very comfortable situation was not much amended by a horrid rumbling which deafened us, and made the ground seem to quiver under our feet. The objects were strewed about in a mad and romantic manner, and really for a frantic lover or a frantic drunkard, which is much about the same thing, it certainly was no place of safety. The chasm is so covered with trees as to render it impossible to discover more of the river than those gushes of water which partially become illuminated by their own reflection, and the rumbling is of course occasioned by their successive struggles to clear the rocky obstacles which obstruct their passage.

It was in the way from STIRLING to DOLLAR that I saw some thousands, perhaps ten thousand, men, women, and children, standing contentedly in the rain to hear a field-preacher. I mention it merely to introduce a small print, which

will give some idea of it. I have spoken of it more at large in a letter on DORSETSHIRE. If we had followed the river, over which the rumbling bridge stands astride, we should have seen the devil's mill, which is nothing more than a continuation of the same obstructed effects. In consequence of the stones being looser, as I apprehend, the water seems at all times to give an idea of the clack of a mill, and it is said among the superstitious to be the devil's mill, because it works Sundays as well as Saturdays.

An accident, a very trifling one indeed, rendered it impossible for us to think of turning a single inch out of the way. One of my horses cast a shoe, which had been probably left a mile in our rear before we discovered the circumstance. As, therefore, it was impossible to get a Scotch farrier to work, the day being Sunday, and it would have been unpleasant enough to have gone on with a lame horse, we were obliged to crawl very gently on to KINROSS, distant I believe at that time about seven miles. The weather, however, had become deliciously fine, and we had a great deal to look at, and a great deal to talk about. The country, however, upon the whole became dull and uninteresting, especially as it grew towards evening, and we had seen no place where people seemed as if they had been accustomed to eat, since nine o'clock in the morning

I must confess I had augured no great matters as to LOCH-LEVEN from the naked approach to KINROSS; for, though we saw the lake and the chain of hills that hold it as in a bason, there was a forbidding appearance every where around it. After having got in good humour by attacking some of its trout, we were determined to lay all prejudice aside and pay a visit to it, and I must confess with thankful pleasure that I was obliged to set down that moment very forward in the first rank of those occasions which have conveyed to my mind the most charming and blameless delight. I know no term for the sensation I felt. It was so quiet, so gentle, yet so full of admiration, that I was entranced without emotion, and I ejaculated without speaking.

The sun had set, and there was nothing of light except by reflection; but not a cloud was to be seen, nor indeed any thing else to obstruct the atmosphere,

but myriads of almost imperceptible gnats which seemed to set the surrounding glow into motion. It was at this time about half-an-hour past nine o'clock. I took care that my view should be correct, and I carefully noted every thing to ratify the resemblance not only of the objects but the general grandeur of the scene. The print will come here. It was taken with all the advantage of those majestic and graceful pines and cedars which are intermixed with the weeping birch, the thorn, the ash, and all those fine trees which are peculiarly beautiful in SCOTLAND, and which in this spot defend and ornament KINROSS-HOUSE.

Having put up my sketch, we strolled on, and before we came to the church-yard, first a small island, and afterwards a large one, broke upon our view. On the last stands the castle, in which MARY Queen of Scots after the murder of DARNLEY, was confined and from whence she escaped only to be more miserable. I now saw that I had the lake in a much more advantageous point of view than before, and therefore of course went again to work. It was now past ten, but the twilight in SCOTLAND is of course much later, as well as much more brilliant than in the south, and I was therefore enabled to take the objects very perfectly. I cannot resist giving this also a place here.

Returned to the inn at KINROSS, next the lake, I have forgot the sign, but I particularly well remember that we were treated with great civility, and found every thing very comfortable, we sat down again by way of supper to LOCH-LEVEN trout, which are certainly exquisite; and, after a few reflections on the infinite variety of nature's beauties, which I had contemplated in the course of the day, in which I have no doubt but I felt myself as much inspired with holy zeal as the Scotch pastor, whom I left in the field preaching to his ten thousand spectators, for it was impossible they could be auditors, I went into a sleep, dreamt of sailing on the bosom of LOCH-LEVEN, and got up with a sort of health and content that might have been envied by a ploughman.

My first task was to revisit the lake, to see how it appeared in broad day-light. Over and over again I took memorandums of its effects, which were delicious, for it was a most lovely morning; but I saw no reason for rejecting those sketches

I had taken the evening before. Of the trout in LOCH-LEVEN there are, as I was informed eleven sorts, but the silver-grey trout is that which is preferred. I know not whether this is the same sort which I thought so excellent at KESWICK, the flesh of which was white, but it may be so; for the LOCH-LEVEN trout is white the first three years, after which it becomes a beautiful red. As to a preference in point of flavour, I shall with very humble deference give up that point to those epicures who understand eating as a science, and can distinguish every species of seasoning as a florist understands all the gradations of a colour, or one of the conoscenti the chromatic scale in music. For my own part, I am pretty much accustomed to enjoy the blessings of life as I receive them, and hold discontent as the most contemptible of all follies. If therefore I am expected as a faithful reporter to acknowledge a preference, I shall certainly avail myself of this inclination to optimism and say, though it will be rather an Irish decision, that they are both best.

I have not in this work promised regularity, that is to say to preciseness, and this I conceive to be an advantage both to my readers and myself; for I never shall get on with so pleasant a pace as when I throw the reins over the neck of my inclination, especially as I know it is steady and sure footed. It was on this account I rambled away from STIRLING to KINROSS without taking notice of any thing more than hills, field-preachers, rumbling-bridges, lady tourists, and lakes. To shew, however, that I am not unmindful of those graver circumstances of historical complexion, which some may consider as the best part of my book, I shall first speak generally of the county of STIRLING, and afterwards that of KINROSS.

STIRLING is a very celebrated, and take it as far as I saw it, a most beautiful county. I have no doubt but the information is true, which says that it was in ancient times situated upon the confines of four kingdoms; but I had rather take the matter for a fact than have the trouble to make it out. Certainly it has been the scene of much contention and bloodshed from the time of WALLACE to the year 1745, and some do not spare to say that OSCAR, the son of OSSIAN played many of his renowned pranks in this place, and other traditional circumstances also are related by some with perfect confidence, and by others peremptorily

denied. To all this I answer that I am truly concerned that any part of the earth has to bear testimony to so many instances of human cruelty, and that it gives me infinitely more willing pleasure to recount that the CARRON-works, erected about 1760, where the manufacture of iron utensils are carried on to a prodigious extent, give bread to hundreds of the industrious poor.

This county is bounded on the west by DUMBARTONSHIRE, on the north by PERTHSHIRE, on the east by the shires of PERTH, CLACKMANNAN, and LINLITHGOW, and on the south by the shire of LANARK. It extends in length about thirty miles, and in breadth about thirteen, which is, however, a poor dimension for the accomplishment of the statement of these Scotch authors, who, because silver, cobalt, copper, and lead have been found there, have predicted that STIRLING will one day or other become the PERU of GREAT-BRITAIN. I willingly allow that the Scotch, though bigoted to a man to their own soil, which I hold as nothing further reprehensible than being little minded, speak of this sort of extravagance as unnecessary zeal, and warmth without consideration. They are more reasonable in their endeavours, instead of exploring the bowels of the earth to search for what may happen to be under it, to clear it in order to see how fertile they can make its surface. This has been undertaken to good effect by landholders who have let out parcels of lands at small rents for a number of years, in order that it may be cleared of the moss and so brought into use, which labourers, whether out of derision or compliment I know not, but I should apprehend the latter, since it would be difficult to deride industry, are distinguished by the appellation of moss lairds. There is something in this county that looks like business if not opulence. I believe the principal manufactures are carpets and plaid.

As to KINROSS it is a very small district indeed. Its whole circumference does not measure more than thirty miles, so that LOCH-LEVEN comprehends more than a third of it, and when the beauties and productions of that are considered, and you have learned that a poet of nature named BRUCE was born near it who died early in life, who wrote in a style of great beauty and animation,

and whose posthumous works through the generosity of the Scotch have long supported his aged mother, you are not unfurnished with matter to produce reflections in favour of KINROSS.

I am, my dear Sir,

Leicester-Place. Very truly yours,

Jan. 31, 1802. C. DIBDIN.

LETTER LXV.

PERTH, DUNDEE, and to KINGHORN.

DR. GARNETT.

MY DEAR SIR,

I SHALL now trouble you with my ride and my remarks on Monday, June the twenty-third, from KINROSS to PERTH. This is the high road on which the coach passes that takes the LONDON mail from the QUEEN'S FERRY to INVERNESS. It therefore wore a different complexion from that I had passed the day before, but I did not like it, except the road itself, much better for that; and, as I saw nothing but barrenness and uncouth hills, I began to fear that I had taken my leave of grand and uncommon effects in SCOTLAND. Like a man, therefore, who retires upon a competency, having been unable to make a large fortune, I was determined to call a little prudence to my aid, and study to be content. I had not been at the TROSHACKS, nor seen DUNKELD, nor heard NEIL GOW, circumstances which I was sure I should be expected to give some account of when I returned to ENGLAND; but I had seen ARRAN, LOCH-LOMOND, the OCHIL-HILLS, LOCH-LEVEN, and all the other objects I have enumerated, which ought to content a reasonable being, and I really considered that I should be ungrateful to repine while I possessed so much treasure, on which at any time I might draw for the support of my reflections.

These ideas occupied me as I passed over a barren and hilly road, perfectly patient and truly content. Arrived, however, within about eight miles of PERTH, we climbed up the heights of BIGLEY, and in one moment the vale of STRATHERNE lay before me. It has been my constant remark the views in SCOTLAND are always wonderful and always new, for the truth of which I appeal to every one of my descriptions. To describe this view, though I may perhaps have faintly succeeded upon canvas, it is impossible to do so upon paper. The extent of this charming valley is at least thirty miles, not made up of objects that lie under your nose as at STIRLING-CASTLE, but that gradually recede in masses, making a most honourable retreat. To attempt to describe what it is composed of would be ridiculous. It would be to read the index to a work of genius instead of the book itself. It is but justice, however, to say, that the wanton Erne, occasionally seen through the thick plantations, and the meandering Tay, as it bent its course through the CARSE of GOWRY, and became more faint in its way to DUNDEE, played a very considerable part in this mass of harmony. Opposite this page you will see how far my feeble and inadequate pencil has been able to do justice to this delicious scene. It was a brilliant noon.

Descended into the valley of STRATHERNE, we passed over the Erne at the distance of about five miles from PERTH; and, when we had arrived on the hill of MONCRIEF we got a retrospective effect of the vale of STRATHERNE, with which I should have been very well contented if I had not so lately seen the same prospect in a more beautiful point of view. As it was, you might as well have offered turbot to an alderman after he had been eating turtle. On this hill we continued to move on, and really a reasonable traveller might have been very much satisfied with the beautiful objects that smiled around us, but I had heard something of the approach to PERTH; and, just as I was considering in my mind what sort of place it could possibly be, exactly as one imagines the figure of some person in whose favour one has been prepossessed, we came to that part of the hill called the cloven crags, when the handsome and sprightly town of PERTH, the Tay, crowded with shipping, the bridge, SCONE, the hills of STORMONT, the crag of KINNOUL, and other charming and commanding objects, lay spread out before us.

I own this was a bird's eye view, and that the houses were foreshortened; but, whether it was that I chose to fancy something agreeable just then in the pleasures of a bird, for such I hope they have, or that there was nothing to distract the imagination by stretching it out to an immense distance, for the objects lay as compact as race-horses at starting, and seemed to gather strength and symetry like the three kingdoms by their union, I was in a humour to be delighted, and at every risk I pronounced the approach to PERTH one of the sweetest things I had ever seen.

PERTH, which was anciently the capital of SCOTLAND, is, in my idea, one of the handsomest towns it contains. There appears about it a native and unaffected politeness which EDINBURGH wants; perhaps because it is no longer the seat of those politics which always embrace something of duplicity, if not of treachery. When GOWRIE conspired the death of JAMES the Sixth, an event that will perhaps for ever remain a mystery, when the ridiculous contest between JAMES and the clergy after this event was carried on, and a variety of other historical circumsances, which, as I cannot here examine them, are almost improper to mention, are considered, it will shew PERTH as a humble vassal to kings, priests, and courtiers; but when that valuable town, in its struggles at the revolution, felt its own strength and consequence, knew its own resources, its own capabilities, and thus lifted itself into reputation and respectability; though it felt, like every other town, that ENGLAND was absorbing hastily the foreign trade of SCOTLAND, we shall see that it relied upon its internal strength, and determined to maintain a perseverance and a consistency, till it was apparent that its commercial advantages would be trebly insured by the influence of the union.

In this judgment I cannot err, for I never conversed with a sensible Scotchman who did not unequivocally acknowledge that he considered the union as the salvation of SCOTLAND. No town, however, if I am rightly informed, took the proper and rational advantages of it in a more beneficial degree than PERTH, the various and entertaining particulars of which are very easily made manifest; but, were I to go into them, I should stay in SCOTLAND longer than my compact will warrant I shall therefore only say, that for the short time I had the pleasure of remaining

in that spirited town, I found more heartiness and less reserve than I had experienced in SCOTLAND.

As to geographical particulars relative to the county of PERTH, it is the most extensive in SCOTLAND, as well as to size and population, as to variety of surface. Its boundaries on the east are the counties of FIFE and ANGUS, and the Frith of Tay; on the south, the shires of FIFE, KINROSS, CLACKMANNAN, and STIRLING; on the west, the shires of DUMBARTON and ARGYLE; and on the north, INVERNESS and ABERDEENSHIRES. It extends seventy miles in length, and its greatest breadth is about sixty. It exhibits a great variety of high lands and low lands, lakes, rivers, forests, woods, and plantations. The Tay, the Teath, and the Erne, are its rivers, and Loch Tay, Loch Erne, Loch Rannock, and Loch Kettering, are its principal lakes. The GRAMPIAN mountains commence in the vicinity of BEN LOMOND, and extend across the county from north-west to south-east; the OCHIL-HILLS form the southern boundaries, and the mountains in BREADALBANE the south and the north. I cannot suppose it possible that any county of the same dimensions can contain a greater variety of extraordinary objects.

It would have been unpardonable to have omitted a visit to SCONE, famous for having been the residence of the Scotch monarchs, and the scene of many splendid actions. It is in the possession of Lord MANSFIELD, by whom it is sometimes visited and very elegantly kept up, particularly the grounds, on which there are as fine trees as any in RICHMOND-PARK. The gallery, which is about a hundred and forty feet in length, is adorned as you are informed by paintings of a stag-hunt in all its various stages, and the exercise of hawking and of hunting the wild boar and bull. Time, however, has completely destroyed these very fine effects greatly if the few remaining scare-crow vestiges of them may be taken for a sample, to the reputation of the painter. The celebrated old wooden chair which has been called the palladium of the Scottish empire is now, as every 'prentice boy knows, one of the appendages of royalty in WESTMINSTER-ABBEY.

The chapel, in which the Scotch kings were crowned, stands upon a rising ground at some distance from the palace, and the place on which it is erected is called BOOT-HILL, as our conductress informed us, and that it was formed by the dirt shook off the boots of those who came to take the oaths of allegiance. This being considered as a most ridiculous thing, Scotch writers have been induced to set it to rights, by stating that it should be called MUTE-HILL, because it was formed of parcels of earth brought there from the estates of all the Scottish barons at the coronation of ROBERT BRUCE, and accumulated before the sovereign as a testimony of homage. Unfortunately, however, this does not mend the story, for had that been the case the chapel must have been made for the hill, whereas the hill was certainly made for the chapel, for the chapel stands upon it.

My next destination was to DUNDEE, the ride to which place from PERTH is beyond description beautiful, and perfectly unlike any thing else. I had heard much of the CARSE of GOWRY, but never understood how it could at the same time be so rude and so fruitful, for, though situated in the midst of rugged hills and crags, it is called the granary of SCOTLAND. The fact is, that nothing can be superior to the soil where the rocks admit of cultivating the levels around them. It therefore of course in time of harvest must exhibit a most extraordinary variety of chequered effect, to see the golden corn waving in patches upon slaty prominences. There was only a promise of this when I saw it, but the boldness and extent of the shelvy precipices every where enriched with luxuriant scenery, were highly deserving of being pourtrayed, and therefore I took two views. The first which will come here serves to shew the richness and fertility of the scene, and the other which will follow in the next page, gives a faithful outline of the singularly shaped rocks that shelter the corn from the wind, and cherish it by reflecting the rays of the sun. The Tay is seen in both as it glides on towards DUNDEE.

I was told by a sensible gentleman at PERTH, that if I took the pains to enquire I should learn as I went on to DUNDEE, a good deal of the Scotch superstition, to whom I answered that I had no doubt but the English could match it. I took advantage, however, of his advice, and asked a number of questions concerning

every ruin or vestige of an edifice that I passed. In consequence of which I was assured that in a chapel near the castle of KINNAIRD a light was seen every night at twelve o'clock, and a bell which rung always at that time was so suspended as to appear independant of any support, and all attempts to remove it were impracticable. This intelligence we received of a woman at the half-way house between PERTH and DUNDEE, who assured us that she most religiously believed it, though upon a cross examination she confessed she had never seen the light, nor heard the bell*.

In view of very delightful variety did we jog on to DUNDEE, where we arrived to dinner. DUNDEE is the principal town in ANGUS, a small county, measuring only about twenty-five miles from east to west, and about as much from south to north. The Frith of Tay divides it from FIFE on the south. For its dimensions ANGUS boasts variety of soil and situation; for, though the ground is even and level near the sea-coast, the western boundary being fenced with the GRAMPIAN mountains, it arises into height and magnificence. The soil of this county does not boast its fertility so much from the art of agriculture as from its own natural advantages; for there are the traces every where of early and consequently of

* I knew an instance of a poor old woman in the country, who was almost scared out of her wits by a parcel of school-boys. They had got a holiday and were going a nutting, and by way of provender had filled a bag with a shoulder of mutton, some bread, and other articles, to furnish out a dinner, which they intended to dress like gipsies in the woods. They called in at a public-house in their way, ordered some beer, and demanded whether they could have any thing to eat. The woman said she had nothing in the world but a leg of mutton which she had just put into the pot. Whether the young wags meant merely to perform a practical joke, or meditated to have something for supper I am not competent to say; but while the woman was gone to draw the beer, they took the leg of mutton out of the pot, and put the shoulder in it by way of substitute. Having drunk their beer, away they went, pursued their original plan, roasted the leg of mutton in the wood, and filled the bag wirh nuts. In the evening they came back to the alehouse, and enquired if they had devoured all the leg of mutton. The woman began a long story, said that the leg of mutton had been bewitched into a shoulder, and that of course it had remained untouched. They informed her that being scholars they knew how to avert the spells of witches, and one of them, no doubt to her very great edification, told her the story of the conversation of MAHOMET and the shoulder of mutton. The joint in question was produced. They pretended to mumble some words over it, and began to fall on it voraciously, till the cottagers, who had eat nothing since breakfast, profiting by their example fell too also; when the story came fairly out, and the boys enjoyed their laugh at the country hicks, one of whom, however, to be even with them, slily took all the nuts out of the bag and filled it with chaff, so that when they returned they had no great reason to boast of their enterprize.

simple cultivation which seems to have been assisted by a natural marl that runs through it.

DUNDEE stands on the estuary of the river Tay. It is in general well built, and, if I thought so after seeing PERTH, I pay it no ill compliment. It has a considerable trade. The manufacture is a sort of canvas for sails, which they call duck. The carrying business, and their employ to the BALTIC, is pursued with vigour and effect. Tay salmon are taken to LONDON from DUNDEE in packages of ice, and this fishery lets at three thousand a year. Though every kind of manufacture is attempted wherever it can be in SCOTLAND, yet there, as every where else, there is some one more prevalent at every given place than any other. Thus the first object at PERTH is printed linens, at DUNDEE duck, and at CUPAR and KIRKALDIE thread. There is always something in a sea-port, whether English or Scotch, that distinguishes it from a town of any other description. Careless heartiness is certainly not very congenial to the phlegmatic soberness of the Scotch, but they put it on at this place with the best air they could, and what they wanted in frivolity, they made up in sincerity.

The passage from DUNDEE into FIFE is a very pleasant and convenient accommodation. There are small boats for passengers, and large ones for carriages. The prospect up the Tay towards the CARSE of GOWRY has a most beautiful effect, and, were it not that I continued in the old opinion that water is not a picturesque foreground, I might have been tempted to have taken a view of the hills, the castles, and other objects, which from that situation recede into the distance.

The county of FIFE is a mere slip of land, being nearly sixty miles long and no more than sixteen broad. From the ferry across DUNDEE water, I proceeded on to CUPAR on the 27th of June, and had reason enough to be pleased with my ride, though I will not affect to say that I saw any thing either like the valley of STRATHERNE or the CARSE of GOWRY. What the traveller, however, wants of variety, is generally made up in SCOTLAND by grandeur. The LOMONDS, which began to appear as we approached CUPAR, are broad massy hills, and the inequality

of the approach to them affords a fine and bold appearance. FIFE is, upon the whole, a charming county, and the populousness of its inhabitants are the surest testimony that it is civilized and laborious. The Frith of Forth washes the southern borders, the British Ocean the eastern, the Frith of Tay is its limits on the north-east and north, the north-west is bounded by PERTHSHIRE, and the west by KINROSS and CLACKMANNAN.

It has been observed, no doubt with truth, that the landed property in FIFE sells higher than in any part of SCOTLAND, and the reason given is both sensible and obvious. The division of property is more minute there than any where else, fewer gentlemen possess large estates, and the natural effect is an operation the very reverse of monopoly. The doctrine is simple, but it is infallible. I have in some measure gone over this already, and shall find it necessary to do so again hereafter. It cannot be too much inculcated; and, as the subject is of immense consequence, I shall not be blamed for enforcing it whenever I have a proper opportunity.

CUPAR, which would be a handsomer town, perhaps, if it did not boast so much of its antiquity as to disdain every thing modern, is however well situated, and seems to be full of industry. The ride from thence to KIRKALDIE, with the LOMONDS constantly in view, exhibits a scene not full of the first species of beauty, but one with which men, not pampered with extraordinary indulgencies of description, have a rational right to be well content. About four miles from CUPAR I was very much delighted with an effect which will appear in this place. The appearance of the LOMONDS is original and grand, and the various objects that lead to it, as well as those that make up the foreground, will very clearly prove that the man did not tell the literal truth who informed Dr. JOHNSON that there are only two trees in the county of FIFE.

KIRKALDIE is a strange irregular town, but it is surrounded by a most respectable neighbourhood. The principal buildings that make up this strange town consist of one ill paved street, which, as I understand, is a mile and a half long. I found it so tiresome that it appeared to me to be three times that length. It is

impossible but that it must be a rich and opulent town. Lying opposite to LEITH, those who wish to reap all the advantage of traffic in a connection with that harbour, find in KIRKALDIE a pleasant and quiet retreat, whence in an hour they can have an occasional intercourse with the capital. In consequence of this advantage, a number of respectable families have established their residence either there or at DYSART, or WEMYSS, or some other village near at hand, where the beautiful harbour of LEITH, ARTHUR'S SEAT, EDINBURGH CASTLE, and a prodigious large number of charming and romantic objects, are immediately in their view, and where they indulge in all the delights of rural elegance at those rational opportunities, when industry yields to relaxation. As a proof of this fact, a great part of the ground about KIRKALDIE lets from five to seven pounds an acre.

Yours, my dear sir,

Leicester-Place, most sincerely,

Feb. 3, 1802. C. DIBDIN.

LETTER LXVI.

EDINBURGH and to ENGLAND by KELSO.

Dr. GARNETT.

MY DEAR SIR,

I SHALL beg the favour of your attention to one more letter, which will finish my very concise and superficial account of SCOTLAND, and which can boast at most nothing more than warmth and fidelity on the leading subjects that engrossed my attention. I dined at PETTYCUR, on Sunday the twenty-ninth of June, from whence I took a sketch, the effect of which will come in here, of LEITH, backed by ARTHUR'S-SEAT, and the CALTON-HILL, OLD REEKY in the center, and EDINBURGH-CASTLE on the right, with an immense body of hills in the extreme distance, the whole being involved in a haze, and the nearest object on the opposite side of the Forth at the distance of at least six miles.

We had a pleasant passage over the Forth, during which I had an opportunity of seeing all the various effects of this noble harbour, my view growing into distinction as we approached, till at length as we neared that immense collection of natural and artificial beauty, I conceived it little less than profanation to painting not to wish that CANALETTI had been alive and on the spot. The glass-houses, docks, store-houses, and other objects of commerce and industry

that give sobriety and solemnity to LEITH, chequered by the vessels in the offing the TRON-CHURCH, and the buildings in the elevated part of the Old Town, reposing as it were in the bosom of ARTHUR'S-SEAT, and gracefully terminated by the observatory upon the CALTON-HILL, the clean and uniform appearance of the New Town, with St. ANDREW'S church, and the whole governed by the castle in all its magnificence; all these delineated by such a pencil would make no mean stand against the best views of VENICE or NAPLES.

By tea-time, we were lodged in our old quarters in George-Street, and as I intended to remain in EDINBURGH some days, I determined to pay more attention to that seat of fashion and business than opportunity had presented me with upon the former occasion. I therefore visited the Court of Sessions, where by the bye I had business; for the Lords of Session had just granted me an injunction to prohibit three music-sellers at EDINBURGH, one at PERTH, and one at GLASGOW, from pirating my songs, a circumstance which, as in other similar instances in LONDON and other parts of ENGLAND, has ended in expence without affording the smallest remedy. This is, however, not the place for such a discussion*.

I had of course upon this occasion an opportunity of mixing in conversation upon the subject of the Scotch Laws, that seem to bend towards equity, which if they obtain, the public will certainly receive the accomplishment of distributive justice. The proceedings against debtors are surely full of temper and good-sense. How far, however, it is politic to exclude juries in all cases of meum and tuum, I am not prepared to say. In questions of felony they are always admitted. I am very much incensed against one blameable lenity in the Scotch penal laws, and that is the punishment for what is called child-murder, which seems rather an invitation to commit this horrid crime than an example to prevent it. If a wicked and miserable wretch chuses to follow up her first infamy by a perpetration of this unnatural and abominable crime, she has nothing to do but to plead guilty, and her punishment is no more than banish-

* In my edition, which I am meditating of the words of my songs and their histories I shall fully go into this.

ment, I believe self-banishment, and that for an inconsiderable space of time. I know that medical men have palliated this crime, and given very sensible, humane, and considerate reasons why it is seldom committed wilfully to the fullest extent of that word. I believe, however, there has been no argument to prove that there are no cases in which it ought to be punished with death, and I never heard of an instance wherein an English jury did not with the utmost tenderness and humanity sensibly and equitably discriminate upon this subject between misfortune and guilt.

I heard on the morning I was in the Court of Sessions an argument of considerable consequence, in which the fifteen lords delivered their opinions seperately. I had therefore an opportunity of getting at some idea of Scotch eloquence, and I must confess I should be happy to see it imitated in ENGLAND. Never was the word economy more worthily applied to the Scotch. I heard no shifting, no trifling, no beating about the bush. The facts were laid down simply and argued on powerfully. The eloquence was not a torrent, it was an even stream; it did not bewilder you, it moved you to admiration. The question was the gleanings of the TRANENT business, therefore it of course involved a variety of points. Mr. HENRY ERSKINE was the managing counsel, and it was of course his business to puzzle as much as possible, but in him as well as the rest I discovered, great shrewdness, perhaps, and an ambition to excel his competitors, but nothing dazzling, quaint, nor shifting, no ingenuity that approached to sophistry, nor any thing but fair, open, and manly argument.

We paid a visit to HOLYROOD-HOUSE, where I saw the portraits of all the kings of SCOTLAND, which seem as if they had been painted on the same morning, by the same painter, and from the same pallet. Indeed, I was so unfortunate that I did not see a real good picture while I was in SCOTLAND. There are a few portraits, which seem to be humble imitations of HOLBEINS, at SCONE, but they had no character of the sort of painting proper to adorn a palace. There can, however, be no doubt but that many Scotch noblemen are possessed of valuable pictures. I can only say, that I was not fortunate enough to see them. Before we quitted HOLYROOD-HOUSE, it was of course indispensibly necessary to visit the

chamber where RIZZIO was put to death by DARNLEY. The whole suite of apartments made but a miserable appearance. They consisted of a bed-chamber, a dressing-room, a kind of hall, and a retiring closet. The whole together I should suppose on a scale not more than five and twenty feet square. In the closet is a dingy hole of perhaps about nine feet by six, there was a trap-door behind the tapestry, which led to a narrow winding staircase. Through this DARNLEY entered with his friend. RIZZIO was dragged from the presence of the queen through the bed-chamber and assassinated in the hall, all which transaction must appear to those who see the place more like an exploit in a brothel than the manly revenge of a prince in a palace. The boards where RIZZIO is said to have been murdered are stained, and we were gravely told that it was with his blood, which they most solemnly assure you has never yet been washed out. The cloisters at HOLYROOD-HOUSE are extensive and beautiful. They form a quadrangle like those of the Convent of the Chartreux, near NANCI, in LORRAINE, but they are by no means so magnificent.

Among other visits we went to see the French prisoners, who performed for us a grand ballet in a capital style. I know the people well, I have known then four and twenty years, and I know that in ENGLAND, or in FRANCE, prisoners, or at liberty, under a king or a consul, they never were nor ever will be other than the GAULS who so frequently and so insidiously broke every truce with CÆSAR. Unqualified assertion I allow may be open to objection, but when it is confirmed by long experience it at any rate establishes a better criterion of veracity than the opinions of those who turn according to circumstance, and who can most peremptorily aver at one time that the French are our natural enemies, and that it is not in nature, in possibilty, or in sanity to have any commerce or intelligence with them, and in a few years afterwards, that the fabric raised upon the ruins of civil and religious government, and supported by the scaffold on which they murdered their king, has been erected upon the best principles of human wisdom. I found these prisoners what I never ceased to find Frenchman, full of design, impudence, and adulation. As to ourselves we kept to our own characters. Willing to reward them for that servility which after our departure

was sure to turn into ridicule, we bought their baubles, saw their show, paid them handsomely, and came away*.

It was now my business to leave EDINBURGH, that combination of art and nature, which for originality and magnificence cannot be excelled. ARTHUR'S-SEAT, SALISBURY crags, the CALTON hill, PENTLAND, BRAID, and BLACKFORD hills, CRAIGMILLAR, CRAIGLOCKHART, and other magnificent objects that surround the two towns, which from their various elevations throw the Frith of Forth in such a number of beautiful directions, that the eye is never tired of admiring its grand and majestic effect, certainly lend a most peculiar novelty to this truly delightful spot, with which I was so transported that it will never cease to be among my most pleasurable contemplations that I have seen this charming-place with all the admiration due to its merits.

On Sunday the sixth of July I set out for KELSO. The road exhibited a sort of mixture between the effect of SCOTLAND and the most picturesque parts of YORKSHIRE. Between BLACK SHIELDS and LAUDER I took a sketch of a very singular effect, which will come in here. It gives fairly the idea I have just described and looks like an adieu to the regions of grandeur, by way of introduction to the domains of diversity. We were now in ROXBURGHSHIRE, near that situation through which runs the Tiviot, as will be seen in the print. This river, however, as we approached KELSO, as if jealous of the Tweed, lost itself in obscurity. For many miles this charming object, which enters this county at the mouth of the Ettrick, displays a great variety of most beautiful scenes, not in some places unlike the Wye in MONMOUTHSHIRE.

* At this moment that I am writing I cannot help reflecting on the various proofs of the different events which have confirmed in me these sentiments of the French, both from reading and experience. My friends the monks of the Chartreux, of whom I have spoken more than once, who were more philosophers than mere churchmen, and with whom I so frequently conversed, predicted the revolution, and shewed by infallible conclusions that the expulsion of the jesuits by GANGANELLI rung out the *tocsin* as the first alarm of that event. They followed up their assertions with unanswerable arguments for every one of them, both in time and circumstance, has turned out to be literally the truth.

In full view of objects like these, we passed on till we arrived at KELSO, a neat and cheerful town, situated near FLEURS, the magnificent seat of the Duke of ROXBURGH, and in the midst of those rich and highly cultivated farms which speak as so many proofs of the great improvement of Scotch agriculture. I had a striking proof that KELSO can muster together a great deal of fashion and elegance; and indeed, by the friendly and hospitable appearance of the several villas which adorn the opposite banks of the Tweed, I should suppose this a most desirable spot for the retirement of those who are wise enough to give up the bustle of the world for calm content, and to attain happiness by considering enough as the true criterion of independence.

It would give me most particular pleasure to enlarge upon so agreeable a subject, and to point out all the objects that grace and benefit this charming region in a considerable circumference; ELLISTON, ANCRUM, MOUNT-TIVIOT, and other delightful and romantic spots that ornament the Ted, the Tiviot, and the Tweed, would then claim a part of my description; which, however, from necessity, I am compelled to forego, and shall barely be able to mention very briefly some Scotch botanic productions, and a few of those eminent men who have so largely contributed to the celebrity of their country.

Previous to this, however, it will be proper to say that some promises I made in the early part of this work have turned out to be difficult, and others improper to keep. One of the latter description is an account of the Scotch poor, a subject which, in consequence of some circumstances that have come to my knowledge, had now better be let alone, The reasons are, as far as they ought to be agitated, that at present no specific mode of providing for the poor has been, or perhaps can be, digested, which will very clearly be seen upon mentioning the following circumstance.

Every thing relative to the poor, before the application to parliament, was, I cannot say gratuitous, because, in a moral sense, the poor have a legitimate claim on the rich, but voluntarily given, according to the justice of the claimant upon the feelings and ability of the donors. The regulations by which the moral

justice of this convention were restricted were admirable; and it is from a complete knowledge of the good sense, wisdom, and equity of the regulation itself, as well as the activity, willingness, and spirit of those who, unlike overseers in ENGLAND, gave their time, their influence, and their money, without the possibility of the smallest return, except the conscious pleasure of assisting the distressed, first gave me an exalted opinion of the minds of the opulent among the Scotch, from which I have not been able to consider the attachment to the poor of their own country as a deduction.

As I was convinced that the poor of SCOTLAND, subsisting upon the liberal feelings of mankind, fared better than they could possibly do under parliamentary regulation, I was astonished, I confess, when I found that, tired of their murmurs, for I insist, however it may be the fashion, by way of a catching argument, to extol the meekness and humility of gin and whisky drinkers, that the poor in general are both insolent and ungrateful, an attempt was promised, and at length made, to put them upon the same footing with the English parochial poor; and here comes the objection to any further agitation of the subject. An act of parliament has been obtained; it has been found inadequate; something else is in agitation, and it would be impolitic and unjust to form an opinion on deliberations that are in embrio.

Upon looking over Scotch botany, I found the list so tremendous, and the particulars at such length, that, lest I should be obliged to leave out a few English counties, I was almost tempted to decline it altogether, not being pinned to it by any of my promises. As, however, I have been furnished with some recently discovered plants, which I believe are not mentioned in any botanical work, I shall notice those, referring my readers to LIGHTFOOT's *Flora Scotica* for a larger and more general account. I beg, however, not to be understood that I wholly forsake the subject, taken more universally, formany of the plants in LIGHTFOOT and others grow in ENGLAND as well as in SCOTLAND, and will therefore undergo hereafter a pretty full discussion.

Yellow mountain saxafrage, *saxafraga aizoides*, is scarce every where, except in SCOTLAND and on its borders. Many authors have given the name of *saxafraga lutea* to the melilot, which is a species of trefoil, and grows naturally among the corn, which circumstance having continually noticed in SCOTAND, I venture to mention it here, under an idea that this may be the same thing; but, if it be an *azoides*, the conjecture is certainly unfounded. Narrow-leaved Solomon's seal, *convallaria vertallata*, is of course a species of the lilly of the valley, but I understand the first discovery of it was in 1792. It was found in a deep woody valley, four miles north-west of DUNKELD.

Water lobelia, *lobelia dortanna*. There is a contention between LINNEAS and TOURNEFORT whether the lobelia is or is not a *rapuntium*, the common title of which is the cardinal flower. It does not signify a great deal which is in the right. I know both the plants, and the distinction is much the same as between the auricula and the polyanthus, which in their appearance are extremely alike, though one is highly classed and called *primula*, and the other is only a primrose. Trailing azalia, *azalea procumbens*, is of course a species of the American honeysuckle; the only distinction is, that one is upright, and the other trails upon the ground. I know not if we have it in ENGLAND. In SCOTLAND it grows upon the summits of mountains. It is a beautiful shrub, spreads to a great extent, and exhibits an effect something between a honeysuckle and an erica.

Draba stellata, called in ENGLAND Whitlow wort, is evidently a species of the star worts, and nearly related to the dittander, of which I have so often spoken, *Hieracium villosum* is a shaggy hawkweed, as its title bespeaks. The botanists, tired out with the infinite variety of hawkweeds, have agreed to restrict them to seven sorts. I fancy this is not one of them. *Eriophorum alpinum*. This is a cotton grass, a plant which grows every where in SCOTLAND.. Whether this which is dignified with the title alpinum, is a different species I know not; but nothing is so common as cotton grass in vallies and swamps. Indeed, I was very inquisitive to know, as it yields prodigious quantities of cotton, whether an attempt had at any time been made to manufacture it, and was told that it had been frequently tried without profit. Some botanists have allowed that there are five

species of the cotton grass, and others maintain it to belong to the andryala, or sow thistle.

Silver-weed, *sibaldia procumbens*. Of this plant which grows profusely on the tops of some of the mountains, there are two species. *Solene acaulis*, or moss catch-fly is a species of the viscous campion, of which LINNEUS enumerates thirty five species, and MILLER fourteen, that are cultivated in gardens, besides those which are disregarded. *Chamæmorus*, or cloud-berry. This plant grows on the tops of some mountains in ENGLAND, as well as in SCOTLAND, and furnishes the peasants and the birds with a berry, rather an indifferent substitute for hips and haws. It is remarkable that no human skill can bring this plant to grow in a garden.

Sun-dew, *Drosera*, or *ros solis*. This is a curious plant. Its characters are these: the calyx is divided into five segments; the petals are five; the capsula is single celled, with five valves at the apex, and contains many seeds. The species of sun-dew enumerated by LINNEUS are six. *Ros solis* is commended by some as a great cordial, and good for convulsions, consumptions, and the plague, which must be allowed is giving it a great latitude, and might make it universally used if it were advertised as a quack medicine. If Dr. HILL had considered its possession of these virtues, he would have made a better thing of it, which was needless by the bye, than he did of his Bardana. I have given a description in my account of CORNWALL of a minor species of this plant, which is there supposed to be fatal to sheep; the plant in question is only fatal to flies, which it catches by shutting up its leaves and crushing them to death.

Annual pearl wort, *sagina apetala*. There are three species of the sagina, all of which bear a neat flower. *Sagina cerastoides* is another sort of this plant. There are several veronicas, which are all speedwells, and on which I have already spoken as much at large as my compact admits; there are two or three other saxafragas. There is one of the pipe-worts; there is a flea-bane; there is a gentiana, but I find nothing novel concerning it; there are star-worts; of various sorts, and there is one of the numerous family of polypodiums. This

collection is, however inconsiderable, for I find no medical virtues among any of them, except the last; the only merit I can claim from enumerating them, therefore, is their novelty.

My next task will be still more difficult. SCOTLAND has produced many eminent men, and it is natural to wish for opportunity and ability to do justice to their memories. Having neither, therefore, I can only select a few, and draw a mere outline of their characters. I shall begin with some of those who have emancipated from the university of GLASGOW, which has had a long succession of professors of learning and abilities since the days of BAILLIE, BURNET, and SINCLAIR. HUTCHESON, an eminent moral philosopher, was born 1694, and died 1747. His writings are very powerful, and his reasonings very subtle. He is blamed for having followed the doctrines of SHAFTSBURY; for, though his language is more perspicuous and more insinuating than his principal, the facts attempted to be established are dangerous, and therefore he who advocates them best does most injury to society.

ADAM SMITH, whose Wealth of Nations is considered by some as an invaluable universal benefit, and by others as a source of mischief and inconvenience, was also educated at GLASGOW, in the early part of his life. He is greatly celebrated for other public manifestation of superior learning and abilities; but his grand work has established for him that sort of decided reputation which every thing, received with avidity, and read without consideration, never yet failed to confer. It has been stated that The Wealth of Nations, during the time the furor was rife, was quoted with admiration in both houses of parliament. Lately it has been quoted in the same places with different sensations. For my own part, I am not very fond of turning nature into science, and have no scruple to declare, that if it has done nothing better than lay the foundation for the last commercial treaty with FRANCE, the world would have lost nothing if it had never been published. Dr. SMITH was born in 1723, and died in 1790.

The little I have said will shew how vain it would be in this place to go into so ample a subject, and if not gone into, how much it would be mutilated by giving

imperfect and incongruous sketches. This will be a sufficient excuse for saying that LUCKMAN, DUNLOP, MOORE, ROSS, and so onward to our respectable friend MILLAR, were ornaments of this university, without saying any thing particular of their respective talents, which might be depreciated by the little I know of them but in common with the rest of mankind, and which could receive no addition to their celebrity by a much more capable eulogist.

If then my feeble endeavours and confined limits are not equal to do justice to those who have ornamented the university of GLASGOW, still less are they adequate to grasp the more numerous, if not more brilliant talents, which have embellished the university of EDINBURGH. Fortunately an elaborate account of men who have possessed such splendid abilities is in any work unnecessary; and, when such men are the question, to mention names is to write histories. How little, for instance, is it material to dilate on the merits of CULLEN, GREGORY, FERGUSON, BLAIR, HUME, ROBERTSON, and many others, who have brought medicine, natural philosophy, eloquence, history, and indeed every branch of literature, to their achme of elegant perfection. The very sound of such names is a reference to their works, in which will be found an inestimable treasure, to the full gratification of the curious and enlightened.

To put universities out of the question, I might instance a numerous variety of gifted and ingenious men, who honourably deserve particular mention, in which BRUCE, the bard of LOCH-LEVEN, might command a conspicuous situation,* but

* BRUCE was the son of poor parents and died of a consumption in the twenty-first year of his age. Lord CRAIG has written his eulogy in a periodical paper, in which he deplores most feelingly that genius should be suffered to languish in obscurity. "For my part," says he, "I never pass the place, a little hamlet skirted with a circle of old ash trees about three miles from KINROSS, where MICHAEL BRUCE resided, I never look at his dwelling, a small thatched house distinguished from the cottages of the other inhabitants only by a sashed window at the end instead of lattice, and fringed with a honeysuckle plant that the poor youth had trained around it. I never find myself on that spot but I stop my horse involuntary, and looking at the window which the honeysuckle has now almost covered, in the dream of the moment I picture out a figure for the gentle tenant of the mansion; I wish, and my heart swells while I do so, that he were alive, and that I were to have the luxury of visiting him there, and bidding him be happy."

such a discuss ion would lead me astray from the road which I am bound to follow and therefore I forego a particular pleasure to perform a positive duty.

I thank you most heartily for your kind attention, and entreat you to believe that I am sincerely and with great esteem

Leicester-Place, Yours,

Feb. 12, 1802. C. DIBDIN.

SCOTLAND.

A Table of all the material Distances throughout the kingdom of SCOTLAND.

	Aberdeen	Ayr	Banff	Berwick	Blair in Athol	Borrowstonness	Cromarty	Coldstream	Cupar in Fife	Dumbarton	Dumfries	Dunbar	Dundee	Dunse	Edinburgh	Elgin	Falkirk	Greenock	Glasgow	Jedburgh	J. Grot's House	Inverary	Inverness	Kelso	Kircudbright	Lanark	Langholme	Montrose	Perth	Paisley	Peebles	Port Patrick	Renfrew	St. Andrew's	Selkirk	Stirling	Wigton	Wick	Carlisle	London
Aberbrothwick to	18	136	93	113	68	80	156	104	27	108	133	86	17	98	58	90	85	124	102	100	267	126	136	100	159	93	128	12	40	110	80	192	108	29	94	74	163	250	148	438
Aberdeen to		178	43	161	76	122	149	152	76	150	181	104	66	146	106	63	130	166	144	151	261	168	130	148	207	132	176	36	82	252	128	234	150	84	142	110	211	244	196	486
Ayr to			217	132	130	64	215	121	108	49	61	103	119	115	77	211	57	46	34	98	327	93	202	99	64	47	102	149	96	34	62	55	36	116	80	62	49	310	100	401
Banff to				220	101	162	89	211	120	190	240	193	110	205	165	33	167	205	183	210	201	207	70	107	266	192	235	84	121	191	187	273	189	23	201	155	266	184	255	545
Berwick to					130	73	230	14	85	113	108	27	95	14	55	210	79	121	96	35	342	158	211	25	134	87	67	125	95	107	61	187	105	94	47	91	106	325	88	338
Blair in Athol to						75	98	121	60	102	170	103	50	115	75	93	80	118	96	120	210	103	79	118	176	107	145	79	34	104	97	186	102	68	111	68	179	193	165	455
Borrowstonness to							176	64	43	46	93	46	62	58	18	156	8	53	31	63	288	90	156	61	109	56	88	90	41	39	40	121	37	51	54	19	114	261	108	398
Cromarty to								221	178	164	58	203	168	215	175	57	183	203	181	225	116	221	19	118	176	206	245	144	135	189	197	271	195	180	211	153	264	95	256	555
Coldstream to									76	104	121	36	86	13	46	203	70	112	90	21	339	149	202	11	95	78	53	116	86	98	45	178	96	85	30	82	151	316	74	332
Cupar in Fife to										76	105	58	10	70	30	117	50	96	74	75	273	112	138	72	131	72	100	39	26	82	52	164	80	8	66	42	135	256	120	410
Dumbarton to											89	88	91	98	58	183	39	12	15	103	276	44	145	100	113	40	137	121	68	9	61	105	6	84	81	45	98	259	116	417
Dumfries to												103	115	80	75	232	98	107	74	73	362	134	231	83	26	56	32	145	115	82	53	79	80	114	52	102	55	345	39	340
Dunbar to													68	24	28	185	52	94	72	44	315	88	184	36	129	60	71	98	68	80	50	160	78	67	38	64	133	298	126	362
Dundee to														88	40	108	69	107	85	85	259	109	128	82	141	72	110	30	23	93	62	175	91	12	76	57	145	242	130	420
Dunse to															40	197	64	106	84	24	327	143	196	14	130	72	56	110	80	92	51	172	90	79	31	76	145	310	77	341
Edinburgh to																157	24	66	44	45	287	103	150	42	101	32	70	70	40	52	22	132	50	39	36	36	105	270	90	384
Elgin to																	163	199	177	202	169	201	38	199	258	202	229	78	115	185	179	267	182	120	193	206	260	152	247	537
Falkirk to																		46	23	69	293	83	146	65	122	48	94	101	48	32	46	114	30	58	60	12	107	260	114	404
Greenock to																			22	111	315	40	190	118	110	47	136	237	84	15	88	101	16	104	126	50	95	298	112	321
Glasgow to																				89	293	59	162	86	98	25	106	105	62	8	46	90	6	82	66	28	83	276	101	402
Jedburgh to																					231	148	201	10	99	62	32	115	85	97	41	152	95	84	15	81	128	315	53	336
Johnny Grot's House to																						251	131	329	388	316	357	255	247	310	305	383	303	271	323	265	376	17	377	667
Inverary to																							120	141	157	84	173	173	86	50	105	149	48	120	125	78	149	234	160	461
Inverness to																								198	257	192	226	124	116	176	184	258	174	140	192	134	251	114	240	530
Kelso to																									109	62	42	112	82	94	32	126	92	81	21	78	138	314	63	338
Kircudbright to																										64	68	171	141	106	78	55	104	140	64	126	31	371	65	366
Lanark to																											93	112	87	33	20	102	31	71	64	53	70	301	84	379
Langholme to																												140	111	120	35	111	120	109	33	106	87	340	21	322
Montrose to																													53	123	92	204	120	42	105	87	175	283	162	450
Perth to																														70	63	152	68	34	77	34	145	230	130	420
Paisley to																															56	90	3	90	74	36	83	266	109	410
Peebles to																																132	52	61	24	58	85	292	77	378
Port Patrick to																																	92	172	131	118	33	318	118	419
Renfrew to																																		88	86	34	89	286	107	408
St. Andrew's to																																			76	50	144	254	129	409
Selkirk to																																				72	107	306	54	355
Stirling to																																					111	248	129	430
Wigton to																																						359	94	395
Wick to																																							360	650
Carlisle to																																								301

LETTER LXVII.

AGRICULTURE.

WILLIAM WOODFALL, Esq.

MY DEAR SIR,

I FEEL something like uneasiness at having pledged myself to take up a subject, that, treat it as tenderly as I may, will nevertheless give partial discontent; but, as my enquiries could never have been effective had I neglected to collect as I went on every possible information relative to agricultural improvement, I cannot resist my inclination to attempt at placing some particulars on this subject in such a light as may induce better observations from others, even at the risk of betraying ignorance in what has here been dictated by zeal.

My reflections arise from a consideration that agriculture is improved so as in the course of thirty years to have regularly produced a gradual plenty, to the amount at length of an aggregate beyond credibility, and yet at this time there is but little to be had, and that little sells for a most enormous price. How has this happened? Have not wealthy landholders set every possible engine to work to extract the ingenuity of mechanics? Have they not given premiums for inventions by which soil has been cultured into the highest fertility, grain brought to the first pitch of perfection, commons and wilds manured and rendered fertile

and productive, and, indeed, the whole face of nature altered and improved? Has all this labour been in vain, or is it that they have been mounted on a hobby-horse, rather than dispensing a great and general benefit?

I speak with infinite reverence of those illustrious and noble persons who from the best of all motives, the good of mankind, have stepped forward in this great cause; but I am afraid that persons of this description, either from their situations or their concerns, or their pleasures, or their inclinations, or other pursuits are too far removed from the objects they mean to benefit by their influence. In their common domestic concerns they seldom know much of their own affairs; for as I have clearly proved in another place, they are completely managed by their servants. In farming then, where every thing is conducted upon the same principle, how can more regularity be expected? Is more fidelity to be looked for from bailiffs and overseers than from butlers or coachmen? and if the latter will treat with the best wine, and snack with the corn-chandler, will not the former regrate and forestall the market? Men of this description are brutal and ignorant, and therefore become perfectly task-masters, and the consequence is that the industrious tenant of a small farm is galled and fretted, and at length rack-rented out of his possession, especially if he has improved it, and obliged at last to sink into a mere labourer.

Nothing can prosper which a man does not conduct himself*. The story of the old lark and her offspring is applicable both to farming and to every other undertaking, and the idea of a middle man in every thing is hurtful and sometimes fatal to enterprize. I have already contended, and I am more and more

* A musician of some eminence, who is possessed of a good hereditary estate, was determined to keep a farm in his hands; but not being quite so good a judge of ploughing and harrowing as of crotchets and quavers, he was obliged to confide the care of it to an overseer. Matters went on pretty well for a time, but at length he found himself a complete dupe, and saw very plainly that he was in the situation of the hackney-man, who found out that he not only shared the fares with his driver, but that whenever it came to an odd shilling it was a toss-up which should have it. One day having been caught in the rain he took shelter in a double-barn, where being concealed from observation he had an opportunity of listening to the conversation of some of his people who were in the other part of the building. By this stratagem he completely discovered his situation, and perfectly agreed with the conclusions which these very trusty servants drew from his absurd conduct,' "Damn at," said the overseer, "what business has he with a farm? Let un plant organs."

confirmed in my opinion that farms cannot be conducted properly, except by those who earn their bread by the sweat of their brow, and for the simple, yet incontrovertible reason, that those only will consider their interest and the interest of the landlord as one and the same; but when tenants are represented to landlords, by men whose interest it is to keep up an eternal warfare between them, as objects that may be disposed of in proportion as they are subservient or obnoxious to them, the contract is open to a thousand misconstructions and cordiality, the best cement of all compacts, is at an end.

If for any private views of their own, these go betweens wish to turn out a tenant, the consent of the landlord is too easily obtained, and I am afraid it too often happens that so much power is delegated to them that no such consent is thought necessary.* A contrary conduct operates as unpleasantly, Nothing but direct and downright measures can be understood by persons of this description, and they very naturally suspect something sinister under cover of second hand

* I know an instance of this; indeed it is on record; and I hope it happened from nothing worse than this kind of misrepresentation. A man of a most immense fortune, for I will not say more, lest I should point him out, did the utmost in his power to turn a farmer out of a possession which he held under him. The farmer had improved the farm; and, as he honestly complied with the conditions of his lease, was determined not to stir. No threats, nor any of the vindictive measures which were practised against him, had power to alter his resolution. In the mean time, stories were circulated to his disadvantage, and the world, as usual, kindly taking up the idea that this litigation between him and his landlord must have originated from something blameable on his part, he began to find his credit fall off; and, though hundreds were ready to pity him, yet not one could be found to applaud his truly manly and consistent conduct. He determined that even this should not shake his resolution. Finding this sturdiness in a man whom he thought born to obey his will, the landlord, to be revenged, procured him to be taken up for horse stealing. The assizes were to be holden at a distant period, and when the time arrived, an affidavit that a material witness was absent, put off the trial six months longer. At length he was put to the bar; not a single witness appeared against him, and he was of course acquitted. What had become of his affairs all this time? They had gone to ruin; and thus, after a twelvemonth's imprisonment for a crime he had never committed, he had his choice to give up the farm or starve in it, because he had been tried for felony. The answer is, he might have had his remedy. He tried this, and the story I have told was related by a junior counsel, for he could not afford to fee a leading one. What then? A phalanx of advocates perplexed the question till it was full of irregularities. The business was dismissed, but he was told that he might begin *de novo*. He had not the means to pursue this advice. The consequence is obvious. The landlord has placed a more accommodating tenant in the farm, and he has been obliged to wander from his native home for fear of being pointed at as a horse stealer.

civility.* "This is the canvas bag," would a farmer say formerly, "in which I "have taken my rent to his honour every Christmas, and these are the receipts "he gave me with his own hands, at the same time that he enquired kindly after "my family, and ordered the butler to fill me out a full horn of ale." Conduct like this operates like fascination. The receipt, the ale, and the enquiry, swell his bosom with honest energy; he imparts the welcome kindness to his family; they shower benedictions on the head of their patron, and hold it as sacrilege to touch that portion of their honest earnings which is to be carefully laid up in the same bag to pay their rent on the following Christmas.

Now all is distance, suspicion, and distrust. The rent is paid to a spunging steward, perhaps half yearly, perhaps quarterly, who when he finds it convenient may pay it or very likely lend it to his master. From these circumstances I argue that Scotch farms bave been better cultivated proportionally than English, and I augur that they will ultimately prove more profitable. As to the operation, however, of these circumstances on the public I am not prepared to decide. That Scotch farms have improved in a more rapid degree than English is evident to admiration. Some of them, I speak within compass, have arisen to six times the value of what they were forty years ago. Then the farm-houses and offices were wretched hovels. The farmer and his wife and family were squallid and in rags. By the seed time the horses were mere skeletons. Cows yielded little or no milk. Calves being stinted by hunger rose neither to size, strength, nor beauty; horses sold from two to six pounds; oxen from thirty shillings to three pounds, ten shillings, and cows for rather less. Now by the encreased produce, farm horses are worth from twenty to five and thirty pounds; oxen from six to fifteen pounds; and cows from ten to twelve, and they all appear in all seasons fat and hearty, and with all the advantages attending this improved condition. This is a statement rather under the mark.

* This speciousness, which a plain honest man cannot understand, is the thing of all others to make him cautious. It brings to one's mind the circumstance of Harlequin, in one of MARIVAUX's plays, who being told that a prince who by the way wants to steal his mistress from him, wishes to be considered among his particular friends, answers, "Of what use will it be to me to have a friend who will never be my companion."

In the county of AYR the proportion is still more favourable. In ANGUS it is much about what I have stated, but in ROXBURGH farms are raised to rents beyond credibility, and yet farmers make fortunes. Thus agriculture has improved and certainly will continue to improve in proportion as landlords look after their own concerns, and farmers are possessed of no more than sufficient to stimulate their general exertions. The contrary however has been and still is practised in SCOTLAND, and against the general opinion, for there cannot be better reasons held out than they offer to prove that small farms which bring forward the best exertions of laborious industry, are best calculated to disseminate equal agricultural improvement and consequently to accumulate agricultural wealth; but their practice frequently differs from their preaching. In ROXBURGHSHIRE farms are held from five hundred up to four thousand acres; and, though no people upon earth are more wary than the Scotch, it is notorious that no people have suffered more through the connivance of middle-men.

It is well known that drovers have bought the black cattle in SCOTLAND to the amount of thirty-thousand a year, and that they are upon these occasions permitted to do so by bills drawn at ninety days. Before these bills become due they have their opportunity of trying the different purchasers, who are generally confederates, till the cattle go from hand to hand even to their arrival in SMITHFIELD, where they of course sell enormously dear. I believe, however, this practice does not so much obtain as it did formerly; but it ever will nevertheless in a certain degree, for the distance is so great that it is impossible to prevent the cattle from being way-laid, and it is more productive to the owner and the return is quicker to strike the bargain at MORPETH than in LONDON.

The practice of keeping farmers as tenants at will is, very much to the honour of SCOTLAND wearing off. My friend Dr. GARNETT speaks of this, and of the influence of those men, called Tacksmen, who have a power frequently without the privity of the landlord to harrass and rack-rent the tenant, as a cause of emigration. This practice is I believe in some instances still common among the Highlands; but every where else it is wearing off very fast. Indeed it ought to be abolished every where; for, says a sensible writer, " without security of

"reaping the fruits of his labour what man of sense would improve his farm?" The general rule now in SCOTLAND is to grant leases of fifteen, nineteen, or twenty-one years, and some landlords whose possessions have been carefully cultivated grant new leases to their tenants three years before the expiration of the old ones, which is an admirable advantage, not only to the landlord and the tenant, but to the public; for if the old lease were permitted to expire, the tenant would of course leave the ground as barren as possible, and it would take two or three, or, perhaps, four years, according to circumstances, to recover the land, and consequently agriculture would receive a check which must affect the interest of the public.

There are but two things. Either landlords must themselves in their own persons see to the operations and applications of all improvements, or else the tenant must be put in possession of neither more nor less than will call forth mental and bodily activity, and place him in that middle state which constitutes real independance. When men, who have been accustomed to speculation, and who know well the advantage of turning money frequently, get hold of farms their minds being naturally active nothing will be neglected. These will see the danger of suffering owners of large farms to encroach on their consequence, and thus, by keeping the different tenants as nearly as possible upon a level, the contention will not be who can hoard most grain but who can bring the best grain to market, and this simple fact, while it points out the source of monopoly, goes at once to its annihilation.

In SCOTLAND this prudent conduct has I have no doubt more obtained than in ENGLAND; for indeed nothing could have brought improvement so rapidly forward but an adherence to it, and it follows that as they have had there many more obstacles owing to climate and soil to surmount and have yet so kept pace with ENGLAND as that rents are raised, and indeed crops, stock, and every thing else, in at least a proportionate degree; so, while we improve upon improvement, pay high premiums, and speculate in theory, they will content themselves with modifying our ingenuity to their own purposes, and reap equal advantage with less expence.

To decry or even check the progress of those researches by which the fruits of the earth may be enriched or increased, would not only be very like illiberality but disaffection, qualities of which I flatter myself I shall not be suspected. I take the broad feature of agricultural improvement to be an assistance of nature in her general operations. Manures, dressings, and other materials to stimulate and further the produce of the earth have been discovered; the art and labour of the chymist and the alchymist have been called forth; particles of soil have been assayed in the crucible, and corn-fields have been ploughed in the laboratory. I have no objection to all this; nay, it cannot be too much encouraged. It is the foppery and the affectation that I complain of. It is nonsense to talk of theory without practice. One is an instrument to which the other gives voice. Theory is a chaos of science. It is the harmony in music; the colours on a pallet; to which habit, the child of certainty, must add melody and lend beauty. It is a universal remedy that applies to nothing, and that, by having only general properties, cannot operate particularly.

Real practical farmers who watch the seasons, examine the soil, and are acquainted with the rotation of nature's operations, take the means without which all the inventions upon earth could have no possible efficacy. They clean the ground; they assist one species of soil by the nutritive qualities of another; they make their farm little governments where by a reciprocal change of commodities in the parts the whole is kept together, maintained, and cherished; they court exotic assistance as little as possible; and, when they find it absolutely necessary, they take care that it shall be as congenial as possible to that earth it is intended to nourish, and thus the farmer manages his farm as he manages his family. Both are braced by exercise, comforted by cleanliness, and if nature should require any assistance, the materials to restore her are always at hand.

I had noted down a number of agricultural particulars relative to almost the whole of ENGLAND and SCOTLAND; but, as they all tend to one conclusion, and it would otherwise be impossible to go into them here, I shall content myself with placing two given counties side by side and finish this letter by the arguments drawn from these premises, and such conclusions which fairly arise from

the whole of the subject. I shall take the outline of this comparative statement from a publication submitted to the Agricultural Society, by JAMES DONALDSON of DUNDEE.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE lies nearly in the center of ENGLAND, and PERTHSHIRE nearly in the center of SCOTLAND. Perhaps the advantage is on the side of SCOTLAND, because I have chosen the largest and most productive county, whereas in ENGLAND there are many counties larger and full as productive as NORTHAMPTONSHIRE. I shall mark what parts of this account are quoted.

" In order to form a correct idea of the rural economy of the two districts " prior to the introduction of improvements in the modes of agriculture in either, " it may be proper to observe, that previous to the year 900, the state of " society in ENGLAND and SCOTLAND appears to have been pretty much the same. " About that period ALFRED divided the kingdom of ENGLAND into tithings and " hundreds; and the honest inhabitants of every village or township became by " that law answerable in their own private fortunes and property for all the " house-breaking, robberies, and other depredations, and were also bound to " keep the peace, and repress every act of violence. In SCOTLAND before the " laws came to be properly respected, or the executive government possessed " that authority necessary to prevent the feudal barons and their dependants " from harrassing and distressing their less powerful neighbours, it was com- " mon for the farmers, who then lived in villages, to enter into an agreement, " called *A bond of good neighbourhood.*" This was an engagement not only privately to protect the general property, but to turn out in arms on any invasion of it.

A regular government having been introduced into ENGLAND earlier than into SCOTLAND, improvement in husbandry was the natural consequence; but it is clear that when SCOTLAND began to feel a similar advantage, method in that as in every thing else dictated the means of improving it, and this is proved by the habitations of the different farmers, those in ENGLAND crowding together into villages, and those in SCOTLAND living in the centre of their own farms. " In

"the following statement attention has been paid to reduce all the articles therein "mentioned to the standards of the weights and measures generally used in ENG-"LAND, and the rents and returns of both counties, are calculated by the Eng-"lish acre, and by the WINCHESTER bushel of eight gallons."

It is impossible for me to take Mr. DONALDSON'S statement at length. I shall, however, give the essence of it, and add to his observations some of my own. In NORTHAMPTONSHIRE, the tenants in general possess their farms from year to year, but they agree with the landlords as to the mode of cropping them. In PERTHSHIRE, lands are, with a very few exceptions, possessed by lease, generally for nineteen years, and the modes for cropping the land is always specified. In NORTHAMPTONSHIRE, the farm-house and offices are generally kept at the joint expence of the landlord and the tenant. The tenant is expressly debarred from breaking up pasture grass. In PERTHSHIRE the tenant is compelled to live with his family on the farm, which he receives in a complete state of repair, agreeing to leave it equal in value. The farms are nearly of a size in each county.

The observations Mr. DONALDSON here makes are perfectly sensible. He says that, granting leases for a number of years to men of substantial, intelligent, and enterprizing talents, has tended infinitely to the improvements in agriculture, which have taken place in PERTHSHIRE. "By this means," says he, "artificial "manures, such as lime and marl, have come to be very commonly used; for, "in consequence of receiving a lease for nineteen or thirty-eight years, the tenant "acquires thereby permanent interest in the farm, and on that consideration "commences his operations in the most active and spirited manner, and always "drains, and limes, and marls, that portion of the farm which is in fallow, "during the first course of the rotation prescribed in the lease."

"But," says he, "a farmer in NORTHAMPTONSHIRE, who holds his farm from "year to year, must possess great faith indeed in the honour of his landlord, if he "expends four or five hundred pounds on that artificial manure, which, though "sure, is yet slow in its operation, or on any other means of improvement "from which immediate returns cannot be expected; and it is a a certain fact

"that a farmer in PERTHSHIRE would rather pay three or four shillings an acre "of additional rent for a farm of tillage in NORTHAMPTONSHIRE, on a lease of nineteen or twenty-one years, than the present rent, and hold the farm at such an "uncertainty as should prevent him in prudence from cultivating it to the best "advantage.

In NORTHAMPTONSHIRE the average of rents is about twenty shillings an acre for enclosures, to which may be added three shillings for poor rates; for open fields the rent is about ten shillings; poor rates the same. They are paid by half-yearly instalments, the first half-years's rent being payable twelve months after possession. In PERTHSHIRE, the rent of enclosed lands are averaged at five and thirty shillings an acre, and the medium for open lands about thirteen shillings; and, for enclosed lands that are in alternate course of corn and grass husbandry, the average is two and twenty shillings. The rents in the CARSE of GOWRIE are paid partly in money and partly in wheat and barley. In other parts of the county they are paid in money, and generally immediately after reaping the crop.

There appears to be a material difference of rent; but it should be known that in SCOTLAND there are no tithes, poor rates, or other taxes, that affect the tenant in quality of farmer. The clergymen in SCOTLAND are all paid by the landholders. The poor are in general maintained by the voluntary contributions of the inhabitants. There is an old Scotch law still in force, by which proprietors and tenants are liable to be assessed equally in such additional sum as may be judged necessary to support the poor of each parish; but it is never insisted on except in the mountainous parts of the country where the greatest portion of the poor reside. All this concerning the poor may hereafter undergo much modification; it is a matter therefore improper now to agitate, for the reasons I have given in my last letter,

Here Mr. DONALDSON's reasoning begins to obtain considerably in favour of PERTHSHIRE and against NORTHAMPTONSHIRE. "Another reason," says he, "why "the rents have got so high in PERTHSHIRE of late years is the practice now universally established of granting leases for a certain number of years, by which "the tenants are enabled to cultivate the lands better, and consequently to raise

" better crops; to which may be added the great saving which has taken place by " ploughing with a man and two horses without a driver, than with a man, a " boy, and four horses, which were considered formerly as indispensibly neces- " sary; for" says he, very shrewdly, " it is a well-known fact that a great pro- " portion of what is gained by a tenant, from his superior management of a " farm, as well as what he saves by lessening the expence of cultivation, sooner " or later finds its way into the landlord's pocket."

Upon a comparison for six years, the harvest begins fifteen days sooner in Northamptonshire than in Perthshire; but, upon a more extensively calculated statement, Perthshire as a climate is superior to the northern counties of England. The rotation of cropping most generally approved of in each county appears to be as follows. In Northamptonshire the old enclosed lands are generally kept in a state of pasturage. The open field lands, considered proper for tillage, are generally cropped; first year, fallow or turnip; second, wheat, part barley; and third beans, with a few acres of oats. The new enclosed lands are cropped; first year fallow, part turnip; second, wheat, barley after the turnip; third, beans or pease; fourth, barley with red clover; fifth, clover; sixth, clover; and seventh, part beans and part oats. In Perthshire. On the rich lands in the Carse of Gowrie, first year, fallow; second, wheat; third, beans or pease; fourth, barley with red clover, and a small portion of rye-grass; fifth, clover; sixth, oats On the lands adjoining; first year, pease, or other green-crop; second, wheat; third, barley, with grass seeds; fourth, clover; fifth, oats. On the enclosed lands, first year, turnips; second, barley, with portions of red or white clover, rib-grass and rye-grass; third, grass; fourth, fifth and sixth, pasture; seventh, oats; and eighth, barley. On which Mr. Donaldson has the following sensible observations.

" Without asserting that the rotations for raising the different crops of grain " cultivated in Perthshire, or on the new enclosed lands in Northamtonshire, " are the best adapted to the different soils, or superior to any other that can " be introduced, it may be proper to observe that the lands under such manage- " ment are much more likely to produce valuable crops, both of grain and " grass, than if they were allowed to remain always in grass, or kept in a con-

" stant state of tillage. Experience has indeed proved that the best land in
" NORTHAMPTONSHIRE. when allowed to remain long in grass is apt to be overrun
" with ant-hills, and to produce but very indifferent crops; and it is presumed
" it will not require much reasoning to prove to the satisfaction of every intel-
" ligent farmer, that lands which are kept under a constant course of corn-
" cropping must be worn out, or exhausted to such a degree, as to render the
" crops of little value compared to what might be expected on the same lands
" if managed according to any of the rules abovementioned."

I shall now go into the average return by the acre of the different species of corn in these counties for six years. In NORTHAMPTONSHIRE, wheat, twenty-six bushels; barley, thirty-one; oats, forty-two; beans, twenty-one; making a general average of all these grains of thirty bushels. In PERTHSHIRE, wheat, twenty-four bushels; barley, thirty-eight; oats, forty-six; beans, twenty-three; making a general average of thirty-two bushels, for I do not reckon fractions. Thus it appears that the returns by the acre of every different species of crops, except wheat, is in favour of PERTHSHIRE; but as this calculation is taken rather from the CARSE of GOWRIE than from the shire in general, the difference upon the whole cannot be very material. Let us now see the average prices by the bushel. In NORTHAMPTONSHIRE, wheat, six shillings; barley, two shillings and eleven pence; oats, two shillings and two pence; and beans, three shillings and nine pence. In PERTHSHIRE, wheat, five and five pence; barley, two and nine pence; oats, two and seven pence; and beans, three and five pence.

" It appears that the price of oats is higher in PERTHSHIRE than in NORTHAMP-
" TONSHIRE, but that all other grains sell higher in the last mentioned county.
" That the price of oats should be higher in SCOTLAND than in ENGLAND will not
" be thought surprising when it is considered that there the great body of the
" inhabitants live principally on oat-meal; whereas in ENGLAND the bread gene-
" rally used is made of wheat-flour. The difference of the prices of the other
" species of grain in favour of NORTHAMPTONSHIRE may be accounted for by ob-
" serving, that NORTHAMPTONSHIRE is more closely inhabited than any other
" county in ENGLAND, where no great cities or large manufacturing towns are

"situated, and that therefore the farmers in general find a market for their grain "at home, or in the immediate neighbourhood; and, that though the CARSE of "GOWRIE, properly so called, is as closely inhabited as NORTHAMPTONSHIRE, yet "the inhabitants of PERTHSHIRE bear no proportion to those of NORTHAMPTON-"SHIRE, when the extent of the two counties are compared; and therefore the "PERTHSHIRE farmer must look to a distant market for the sale of his surplus "grain, which he generally finds at LEITH, or GLASGOW; and which he avails "himself of by means of the Frith of Tay, and the inland navigation which is "opened between the Forth and the Clyde, by which grain is transported from "this last mentioned county to GLASGOW, which is the best market in SCOTLAND. "But the farmer in PERTHSHIRE must be at an expence greater perhaps than the "difference above stated, in conveying his grain to the best market; or, which "is the same thing, must sell his grain so much lower as to enable the merchant "to transport it with advantage to himself."

The value of the returns by the acre, averaged as before, is twenty pounds sixteen shillings, in NORTHAMPTONSHIRE, and twenty-one pounds seven shillings and eightpence in PERTHSHIRE, so that deducting the kind of drawback described above, the two counties appear so far to be nearly upon a par; but, when it is considered that the difference in the expence of servants is so great that the same labour that is performed in PERTHSHIRE for half-a-crown, will cost in NORTHAMPTONSHIRE five and sixpence, the balance materially preponderates in favour of PERTHSHIRE, a circumstance that cannot easily be remedied while Scotch labourers content themselves with oatmeal and barley-broth, and those of ENGLAND insist upon beef, pudding, and fat bacon.

These are some of the ingenious calculations of Mr. DONALDSON; which, though they do not exactly apply to the present day, his average, of six years being from 1787 to 1792 inclusive, yet their bearing is no doubt the same; which proves that with all the disadvantages of being so long behind the English in agricultural improvement, of an unfavourable climate, and a less capable soil, they have at least come up to us; and, when we add that they have mended the breed of their sheep, not by extravagant premiums given by them, but by incorporating the

produce of ours, which have cost us extravagantly, with theirs, for almost nothing, and in other respects availed themselves of our expensive experiments, just as they say fools build houses and wise men live in them, we must not be surprised if the Scotch should bring their lands like themselves, by patience, perseverance and industry, to yield more than an equivalent for that portion of self gifted fruitfulness, and capability which has been denied by nature.

It is impossible too much to laud, to encourage, and to reward the meritorious endeavours, either speculatively or actively of all those who lend assistance to the operations of nature, for the comfort and convenience of mankind, but it infuses a sort of hopeless despair into our minds to reflect, that we are obliged to see and to acknowledge from the conviction of daily experience that the more this important subject is agitated, patronized and premiumed, the more the chymical stores of nature are explored to stimulate fertility, the more human invention is racked to produce implements to facilitate labour, the less apparent are the desirable effects from all these exertions which we are told to expect; and, whether cattle are sold at KNIGHTSBRIDGE, or at SMITHFIELD; or bread assessed through the medium of wheat, or flour, instead of finding beef five-pence a pound, and bread six-pence for the quartern loaf, we are obliged to content ourselves with listening to the histories of gallant rams and gigantic oxen.

As to meat we are permitted to have but little, and what we get is enormously dear, pampered, bloated, and unwholesome. I am convinced that nothing can be so pernicious to health as the gross-feeding in the metropolis, where it is now the fashion to compliment a butcher's shop with saying that the joints of meat look like pictures, but which unfortunately are so enveloped in unnatural fat, that it is impossible that even the nutritious parts they contain can be salutary, putting it out of the question that the price, even the extavagant price you pay, is more than doubled by so much waste, which answers no better purpose than, to increase the already intolerable insolence of servants, and to add to the profits of the tallow-chandler, and so enhance the value of another necessary article of life.

Every thing relative to provisions, which are all necessarily affected by the pursuits of agriculture, hinges upon private motives instead of general interest,

and no measure is taken but to carry a point. Precepts laid down acquiesced in, and agreed to, are removed from their repositories where they have long been held sacred, and cancelled and torn to pieces whenever any temporary and politic purpose can be affected by the outrage. The clearest position in the world is that nine tenths of the vice, by which this town is debased to a sink of infamy, originates from dram-drinking. The act that FIELDING obtained from his representation of this diabolical practice, to which he attributed the increase of robberies, operated only partially against it. The laws of this country are very apt to relax, and the late permission to distil from grain has pretty nearly restored to those who love a short life and a merry one, all their ancient privileges.

The arguments upon this subject were rather curious. I shall however go into no more than their operation as it bears upon the poor, who seem to be permitted to get drunk to drown their sorrows, lest it should occur to them that abundance in this country is the parent of scarcity, and that while they are comforted with the hope that, by permitting the distillations to go on they shall get plenty of hogs-flesh, they may forget that the same medium by which they are furnished with meat, prevents them from getting bread to eat with it.

Though almost all the avowed purposes of societies instituted for the benefit of mankind are too frequently abused, it is impossible to say enough in commendation of the noble motives which give rise to them; and at one time, so highly did I think of the Board of Agriculture, that I almost persuaded myself it would effect all those salutary ends proposed by its meritorious and most honourable researches. Those, however, who like myself have been in this delusion will soon awaken from it. Every one who attempts to improve upon nature in this country will in time know nothing but art; nothing will be reality every thing will be appearance, the substance will be neglected for the shadow, paper will be substituted for money, intoxication for health, the diseases of the government, the human body and the earth together with their remedies will be artificial and deleterious; fashions, inclinations, food, judgment, ideas, will be warped, and far indeed from the purposes of nature, to all which retrogade improvements we have already made pretty long strides, but we never looked so full in the face

of its accomplishment as since grounds have been chymically treated, and cattle unnaturally fed; since rams have been let out at three-hundred guineas a-piece, that so, should the produce from each be nine-hundred lambs, every one will cost seven shillings before it is born; in short, since we have so improved upon the productions of nature that they are three times worse and three times dearer than they were five and twenty years ago.

Should it be said that I lay bare the complaint without providing a remedy, my answer is, that nothing can be so easy as to point one out. Let every thing be done by competition; let industrious men conduct small farms; let them have long leases; let the emolument be their own; let their endeavours be crowned with a honourable struggle to provide for their families; do but this; the fair produce of the earth would be brought equally and openly to market, monopoly would cease, and the evil would be done away.

Yours, my dear sir,

Leicester-Place, most sincerely,

Feb. 24, 1802. C. DIBDIN.

LETTER LXVIII.

NORTHUMBERLAND.

Mr. WARE.

DEAR SIR,

HAVING gone through all I had to say relative to SCOTLAND, I shall now take a view of NORTHUMBERLAND and DURHAM; and as these are in some degree in your neighbourhood, or at least in your beat, I shall beg the favour of your attention to my strictures.

You will have seen that I am not solicitous to search into the origins of counties, or to dip into all that uncertain intelligence which would, perhaps, not only trench on the time but the patience of my readers. Every body knows that NORTHUMBERLAND formerly not only comprehended YORKSHIRE, DURHAM, LANCASHIRE, WESTMORELAND, and CUMBERLAND, as well as its own extent, but was a distinct kingdom of the Saxon heptarchy. As it is at present circumscribed, it is a maritime county of considerable dimension; it reaches further north than any other in ENGLAND, bordering upon BERWICK-UPON-TWEED and SCOTLAND, from which it is divided on the north by the river Tweed; on the south by the rivers Derwent and Tyne, which separate it from the county of DURHAM; and on the west it is bounded by CUMBERLAND and part of SCOTLAND. It extends in its ut-

most length from north to south about sixty-seven miles; from east to west in its broadest part about forty, and is, by what I can calculate, nearly a hundred and seventy in circumference. It is divided into six wards, in which there are twelve market towns; it has about four hundred and sixty parishes. It lies in the province of York and diocese of Durham, and sends eight members to parliament.

The principal rivers, which are very fine and valuable in this county, are the Tweed, the North and South Tyne, the Coquet, and the Read. The Tweed, as I have already described, rises in Scotland, and running north-east, is joined by the Bowbent, the Bramish, the Till, and other small streams. It parts England from Scotland, and runs into the German Sea at Berwick. The South Tyne rises near Alston-Moor in Cumberland, and running north-west to Featherstonehaugh, forms an angle, bending its course north-eastward, and being joined by two small rivers called the East and West Alon, joins the North Tyne near Hexham. The North Tyne, which is by much the most considerable river, rises in a mountain called Tynehead, on the borders of Scotland, and flowing south-east, receives a small river called the Shele; then continuing the same course, it is joined by the Read, and having afterwards received the South Tyne, passes by Newcastle, and discharges itself into the German Ocean below Tinmouth. The Coquet rises on the borders of Scotland near to the source of the Read, and running eastward, is joined by several streams, and falls into the the German Sea at Workworth. The Read at its source, which is on a mountain called Readsquire, forms a considerable river, and after running south-east, and having, like the Coquet, received several small streams, falls into the North Tyne near Billingham.

These rivers produce prodigious quantities of fish, particularly trout and salmon, by which the poor are greatly benefited; so much so, that it was formerly a custom with servants when they were hired, which proves that servants ever were and ever will be the same, to make a bargain not to be cloyed with salmon. That we have no objection to this fish in London, which is certainly sent to us in great perfection, every fish-stall can testify. The air of Northumberland is said

to be very salubrious, which is probably owing to the sandy rocks near the sea-shore, which emit no such noxious vapours as arise from mud and ooze, and to its being hemmed in on the side near SCOTLAND by that fine chain of mountains which begin in hills, and as they arrive near CUMBERLAND magnify into fells.

These hills towards the north are immensely high, and it is a common thing to see snow upon them till Midsummer. I am myself able to vouch for this fact in a degree, for there was plenty of snow the beginning of June in 1799, and though the spring of 1800 had been much more mild, there were still perceptible traces of it the middle of June in that year. I understand the CHEVIOT-HILLS are distinguishable at sea for sixty miles, and at that distance they resemble the PEAK at TENERIFFE. It is very unnecessary to enlarge here on the bogs which are to be found on these hills, and in traversing which the horses are so expert that they avert all danger, and are therefore called bog-trotters. Much less is there any need to mention the coal-pits, the contents of which float on the river Thames, and indeed almost all the rivers in this kingdom, and which at this moment diffuse warmth and comfort around as I am writing. It is for distinction called sea-coal; but this arises entirely from its being conveyed by sea, for it is as much pit-coal as any other. LONDON is said to consume nearly a million of chaldrons in a year, by which a calculation may be made of the most astonishing quantity the pits in NORTHUMBERLAND produce.

I took my leave of my kind and solicitous friend, Dr. GARNETT, at CORNHILL, where I arrived from KELSO on the eighth of July. We were welcomed to ENGLAND by the landlady of the inn, who producing her bill of fare, assured us, that as we had not eat veal for some time, which is the standing joke against SCOTLAND, and the more severe, by the bye, being a true one, she could suit us with some of the finest that ENGLAND could produce. She would have been of another opinion, perhaps, had she lived in ESSEX; but the veal was tolerable enough. In return, however, the liquors were the worst I had tasted since I had left LONDON; but travellers must be content, and being accompanied by a friendly party from KELSO, we passed the evening very comfortably.

The next day we arrived at ALNWICK, which takes its name from a small river called the Aln, on the borders of which it stands, at the distance of three hundred and ten miles north by west of LONDON. It is a dull town, though rather populous and pretty well built, and would perhaps appear to more advantage were it not that the CASTLE, which is certainly a most magnificent structure, awes it into insignificance. We explored every part of it; we were permitted to enter the armoury, the dungeon, the chapel, and, in short, every thing that is usually shewn to strangers, and which seems to furnish a pretty snug sinecure to the servants. The view from different parts of it are rich and beautiful; but I had seen WESTMORELAND, CUMBERLAND, and SCOTLAND, and therefore took no drawings. Nevertheless, I cannot think any place better calculated for retirement. There is a perpetual diversity, and many persons possessed of the best comforts for the purposes of society are to be found in the neighbourhood.

The history of the CASTLE, its immense apartments, the figures on its turrets, the various sieges it has held out against, and many other particulars relative to it, would only be a reiteration of the histories of all castles so circumstanced during the various intestine commotions which have at different periods convulsed this kingdom. The only consolation against such reflections, which induce us to recollect and shudder, is, that we can now view all those tremendous objects of internal security with a grateful consciousness that they are no longer necessary. This county has had its share of domestic contests, as well as the repulsion of foreign invaders; but its principal employment in this horrid traffic has been against the Scotch, between whom and the inhabitants of BERWICK it seems to have been the foot-ball. The battle of FLODDEN-FIELD, when JAMES the Fourth invaded ENGLAND, and the contest between NORTHUMBERLAND and DOUGLAS, at the foot of the CHEVIOT-HILLS, which produced the song of Chevy Chace, will be known as long as nurses sing lullabies.

MORPETH is a town of no material consequence, but from adventitious circumstances. It is a post town, and being a thoroughfare on all the northern roads, the inns at least have a great deal of business. The market is no doubt the best in ENGLAND for cattle except SMITHFIELD. It is in the nature of what I described

the market to be at NORTHAMPTON. It forestalls the black cattle from SCOTLAND exactly as the other does the YORKSHIRE horses. If, however, there were no more middle men in the way to LONDON, which I am afraid there are at almost every halt, I fancy beef, by the time it made its appearance in ST. JAMES'S MARKET, would not be so dear by at least a third. MORPETH stands in a most delicious neighbourhood. The tempers of the inhabitants I consider as described by the above account of their employment.

It so happens in every work of this kind, that where one has most to say the facts are already known, and this I suppose is the reason why tourists search for every thing curious, and consider every thing interesting as a secondary object. The decyphering an inscription on a Roman altar at RIECHESTER, the cavilling whether RISINGHAM means a town of giants or a high hill, whether the altar found at CONINGTON was erected by some Emperor to MAGON his god, or by that emperor's minister, or whether there was any such emperor, or minister, or god, which last business is rather doubtful, when it is considered that, if you admit this assertion, you must also admit that this same MAGON was deified for defending the inhabitants of RISINGHAM against a Pagan, which after all, says, very gravely, the historian now lying before me, has the air of a fable; whether the skeleton of a man was found at CORBRIDGE, and the thigh bone was six feet in length, or whether it was not rather the skeleton of some beast, which idea they seem to have borrowed from EUGENE ARAM; whether House Steeds or Herculaneam is fullest of curiosities; whether the birds that lay their eggs on COQUET-ISLAND are swans or geese, or any other of those innumerable subjects, so delicious from the spider hunter to those who love rust better than polish, and who delight to rake among the ashes of the dead rather than partake of the pleasures and comforts of that society which alone they were designed by nature to receive and enjoy.

Being myself therefore obliged, according to my compact, to shew that the world goes on very well, when the complexity of its construction is considered, and that, though mankind in general exert their talents as much as possible to

their own advantage, yet they so need one another's assistance as to jumble pretty well together, considered that they are composed of that heap of jarring atoms in which they lay before they emancipated from chaos, and above all to prove, not by argument but fact, that if from this moment no further trace of the ancients were to be found, no contradictory conjectures made, if neither Roman bricks, heads of arrows, rusty armour, mutilated statues, defaced ruins, stone coffins, or other of those objects so greedily sought after, were again to be discovered, but to be forever eclipsed from the perquisitions of all antiquarian Marplots, that the earth would revolve exactly as it does at present, and its inhabitants fulfil their duty rather better, since every man is sure to thrive best who minds his own affairs.

If I had not said this, how could I have described NEWCASTLE, where indeed they search pretty deeply into the earth, not, however, with a view to trace out past madness and folly, but to circulate present pleasure and comfort. This town is distinguished by the title of NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE, that it may be known from NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LINE, where they are equally industrious, and equally contribute to the convenience of society, as I have already described. NEWCASTLE has from time to time been honoured with varions grants, charters, and immunities from government, as those distinctions were merited by the growing exertions of the ingenious and industrious inhabitants of that spirited and enterprizing place.

Nothing can better speak the opulence and respectability of NEWCASTLE than a review of the town itself. That part of it which lies towards the river is on the side of a steep hill. It is inhabited by all those whose business variously impels them to attend the affairs of the shipping, in which the proprietors of the glass-houses, the manufacturers of hard ware, and many other persons belonging to different occupations, are concerned; but the upper or north part of the town is built upon a high level. It is very healthy, and the buildings, consisting of three spacious streets, are inhabited by persons of considerable influence. There are six churches; one of them, ST. NICHOLAS, had when I was

there a curious steeple; but I must confess I thought it rather whimsical than elegant. The newspapers a short time ago reported that it had been blown down; but, according to Sir FRANCIS WRONGHEAD, on that account it perhaps was not true.

The other buildings are a magnificent exchange, a mansion-house for the mayor, a noble custom-house, and a most stately bridge over the Tyne. The quay is said to be the finest in ENGLAND except YARMOUTH; but those who propagated this were partial to the place, or else they had never seen the improvements at LIVERPOOL and HULL. Vessels for the coal trade are built at NEWCASTLE in great perfection. The trade of this town for coals only is said to employ above ten thousand keelmen, as they are called, who have formed themselves into a friendly society, and by their own contributions erected an hospital for such of their fraternity as are disabled by age or accident. One of the coal mines, as I was informed, runs a considerable way under the bed of the Tyne; a circumstance which suggested probably the idea of a tunnel under the Thames from GRAVESEND to TILBURY FORT. A gentleman with whom I dined, at the house of our old friend, whose death we have since lamented, was concerned in the last undertaking, and assured me that they had certainly found difficulties, but that there could be no doubt but they would be surmounted, as they had begun to employ NEWCASTLE workmen. The standard by which I work reminds me that the small space allotted me will not permit more in this letter than a short account of botanic productions and celebrated characters in NORTHUMBERLAND.

Dwarf honeysuckle, *periclymenum humile*, grows on the CHEVIOT-HILLS. It is of course the common woodbine, with the difference of growing in a dwarf state, instead of climbing and spreading. Sea bugloss *echinum marinum*. This is not viper's bugloss as some imagine, but a species of that which I have described in speaking of plants in the county of KENT. Podded willow herb, *lysimachia*. This plant, loose-strife, *lythrum*; French willow, *epilobium*, and the gaura are all related. The *epilobium* has so agreeable an odour that it has obtained

the title of codlins and cream. Winter green with chickweed flowers, *trientalis*. This is a pretty weed and there is but one species of it. It grows near the Picts' Wall. Common horse-radish, *rhaphanus rusticanus*, is found in many places near the water-side in great plenty, from a sort almost equal to the garden horse-radish to the least pungent species of the cochlerea. Common eringo of the midland, called in NORTHUMBERLAND, friar's goose, grows near NEWCASTLE. It has I believe no properties of the COLCHESTER eringo.

Remarkable persons born in NORTHUMBERLAND were not so celebrated formerly as they are at present but as I have confined myself to posthumous accounts, I shall leave to others the task of enumerating virtues and talents what will probably long yet adorn the world. JOHN DUNNS, known by the name of DUNNS SCOTUS, was born at DUNNS about six miles from ALNWICK. He was celebrated for his logical and theological disputes, by which he acquired the name of *Doctor Subtilis*. He affected to maintain opinions contrary to those of THOMAS AQUINAS, which produced two parties in the schools, the Thomists and the Scotists. He is said to have been buried alive in an apoplectic fit.

JOHN of BEVERLEY, Archbishop of YORK, was born at HARPHAM, a small town in NORTHUMBERLAND. He was tutor to the famous BEDE, and founded a college at BEVERLEY for secular priests, which I shall hereafter speak of. His works are but little known, which is not wonderful, as they were written in an early period, but the instructor of the venerable BEDE blazons his own learning in that which his scholar acquired.

RUSHWORTH, the famous author of the Historical Collections, was a native of NORTHUMBERLAND. He is known by the active part he took in the troubles of CHARLES the First, to whom, he was employed by the House of Commons as their clerk to carry their addresses. In 1643 he took the covenant, and was appointed secretary to Sir THOMAS FAIRFAX, general of the parliamentary forces. He was afterwards secretary to Sir ORLANDO BRIDGEMAN, lord keeper of the great seal. In short, he was pretty busy while any thing was to be had,

and at length like all satellites sunk into obscurity. He died in the King's Bench.

It is not my fault if truth obliges me to finish Northumberland with an anti-climax.

Yours, my dear Sir,

Leicester-Place. With great truth and sincerity,

Feb. 27, 1802. C. DIBDIN.

	Belford	Berwick	Billingham	Elsden	Haltzwell	Hexham	Morpeth	Newcastle	Rothbury	Tinmouth	Wooler	London
Sat. Alnwick to	15	31	35	21	51	42	18	34	12	37	14	311
Thurs. Belford to		16	50	36	65	56	32	48	26	51	11	325
Sat. Berwick to			61	52	82	64	49	64	43	66	17	341
Tu. & S. Billingham to				12	21	15	20	37	22	46	44	251
Elsden to					33	27	19	29	11	38	36	306
Thurs. Haltzwell to						15	33	35	44	44	65	315
Tues. Hexham to							18	21	32	32	47	287
Wed. Morpeth to								16	15	19	31	292
Tu. & S. Newcastle to									31	9	48	277
Frid. Rothbury to										40	25	307
Tinmouth to											50	286
Wooler to												323

NORTHUMBERLAND.

NORTHUMBERLAND sends two members to parliament for the county, two for MORPETH, two for BERWICK, and two for NEWCASTLE. The two last mentioned places are governed each by a Mayor and Aldermen.

LETTER LXIX.

DURHAM.

Mr. WARE.

MY DEAR SIR,

To DURHAM I shall now entreat your attention. It is a maritime county, and that part of it on the east which is bounded by the German Ocean, exhibits a striking opposition to the inland territory, which is bounded on the north by NORTHUMBERLAND, on the west by a small part of CUMBERLAND and WESTMORELAND, and the river Tees separates it from YORKSHIRE. It is somewhat of a triangular form, extending fifty-three miles in length from its most western extremity, near the village of KELHOPE, to HARTLEPOOL in the east; it is about forty in breadth, from the village of STOCKBURN in the south, to SOUTH-SHIELDS in the north; and, though a great part of the county is in proportion much narrower, yet it is upon the whole about a hundred and forty miles in circumference.

This county takes its name from the city of DURHAM, and is commonly called the Bishoprick, and sometimes the County Palatine of DURHAM, it having been formerly a royalty, under the jurisdiction of the bishop, subordinate to the crown. It is in the province of YORK, and is a diocese of itself. It is not divided into hundreds, but like CUMBERLAND, into wards or wakes, four in number. It

has one city, seven market-towns, a hundred and thirteen parishes, and sends only four members to parliament. DURHAM has rivers of different descriptions, to the number of sixteen, the principal of which are the Tees and the Were.

The Tees rises on the borders of CUMBERLAND runs east south east, and receives besides several inconsiderable streams, the Hude, the Lune, the Skern, and the Bauder. A circumstance relative to the Tees may serve to elucidate in some degree the bottom wind in the Derwent, the subterraneous eruptions in the HUNTINGDONSHIRE meres, and other phœnomena of that description. Near the confluence of the Tees and the Bauder, in 1689, there happened an eruption of water from below, which in forcing its passage carried away such a quantity of earth, as left a chasm of a hundred and sixty yards long, eighty yards broad, and six or seven feet deep. It choaked up both rivers, and of course killed great quantities of fish. I was told that the river Tees has a ford over it, in the road from LONDON to DURHAM, where the Bishop, at his first coming to take possession of his see, is met by the country gentlemen and where the lord of the manor of SOCKBURN, a village upon the same river, advances into the middle of the stream, and presents him with a faulchion, as an emblem of his temporal power, which he returns to him, and then proceeds forward. Unless this absurd ceremony embraces some condition beneficial to society, I hope it is now dispensed with. For my own part, upon QUIN's principle, who being told that a gentleman at a city feast helped one of his guests in a hurry to a neighbour's finger and thumb, said that he would not dine with such people, unless he might be permitted to use a basket hilted knife and fork, so were I lord of the manor of SOCKBURN, I should be very unwilling to perform this ceremony unless I might wear oil-skin pantaloons.

The Were is formed of three steams, called the Kallop, the Wallop, and the Burdop, which rise near each other in the west part of the county within three miles of the head of the Tees. The Were thus formed flows eastward and receives the Gaunless and several smaller streams. It then moves on in many winding directions, its general course being north-east ; and, having passed the city of DURHAM, falls into the German Sea at SUNDERLAND. SHEALS in this county is

remarkable for its salt works, which are so extensive that above two hundred pans are used for boiling the sea-water into salt, to effect which more than a hundred thousand chaldron of coals are burned in a year. The quality of some of the rocks are thought to lend assistance to the production of salt.

There is a rock, upon the surface of which in a hot day is frequently found a perfect salt. About BATTERBY, a village near DURHAM, are several great stones in the channel of the river that are never covered but when it overflows. Over these if water be poured it will in a short time become brackish. At SALTWATER-HAUGH is a salt spring in the middle of the Were, which in summer, when the water of the river is low, will bubble up for a space of forty yards in length, and ten in breadth. This water is as salt as brine; and, though it is but small in quantity compared with the fresh-water of the river, it is so strong as to give a brackishness to the stream for at least a hundred yards below it. This water when boiled yields bays-salt.

The air of this county is healthy in the same proportion as in all hilly situations It is generally mildest towards the sea, because the warm vapours soften the cold, but upon the principle of those remarks which I have made relative to the SCILLY ISLES, and other places similarly situated, I know not if it is always the more wholesome for that boasted advantage. The remark is too general to have much weight. It will not hold good in all instances. The waterman upon the Derwent told me that he had been very much troubled with the ague when he lived near FURNESS in LANCASHIRE, but that since he had removed to KESWICK, which was I think about fifteen years, it had entirely left him. The soil is various according to various situations. The ridge of mountains that are connected with the CHEVIOT-HILLS, and the Fells towards CUMBERLAND have different surfaces, in proportion as they are composed of rocky or earthy substances. Mountains that contain inexhaustable mines of iron are little calculated to produce vegetation. The eastern and southern parts of the county however are generally fertile, and abound with rich meadows, pastures, corn-fields, and woods.

SUNDERLAND, a name which is said to signify a place apart or distinct in its privileges from any other, is a large populous place, and it carries on the coal trade to such advantage that, from the smaller construction of the vessels, and their being laden in the open sea, they have been known to steer from thence, to deliver their coals at LONDON, to beat up against the wind in their return, and to get back before the ships at SHIELDS, which had been laden before them, had been able to get over the bar. SUNDERLAND coal has a remarkable property, for it is said to burn so slow, and yet to emit such heat that it makes three fires. This town has arisen into immense consequence from a mere village, Thirty or forty sail sometimes come in at a single tide; nearly the same number perhaps sail out, while seldom fewer than fifty or sixty sail lie at anchor in the road. I apprehend, from the best intelligence I can get, there cannot be short of from five to six thousand vessels loaded every year in the SUNDERLAND roads. The pleasure consequent upon witnessing the hearty and honest dispensation of those riches which spring from maritime industry have always been dear and grateful to my mind, and I considered SUNDERLAND as a goodly tree that from a trifling offset had meritoriously struggled to strength and maturity.

STOCKTON is a clean well built market town; and, as the Tees is capable there of bearing ships of heavy burden, there is a pretty good coasting trade and to LONDON. Lead, butter and bacon are the principal commodities. It was formerly famous for ale, an article of some consideration with our fathers and grandfathers; but, thanks to quassia and other quack substitutes, that wholesome good old English beverage stands a chance of being utterly unknown to our sons and grandsons. It appeared to me that the consequence of STOCKTON had been a good deal overrated by the reports I had heard, and that one symptom of its decline seemed to be what you call hugger-mugger gentility. There may be some few persons of considerable property, but upon a comparison with NEWCASTLE, SUNDERLAND, or NORTH-SHIELDS, it is an atom in a vortex, or a pinch of snuff in the mull of a Scotchman.

Upon the whole the county of DURHAM all through cannot boast I think a large aggregate of riches. DARLINGTON would be nothing if it were not a post town.

HARTLEPOOL is a poor inconsiderable fishing town; and, if it were not for the clerical revenue and patronage of DURHAM, I should think that SUNDERLAND might buy the whole county. I shall now pursue my route from NEWCASTLE, and remark upon what I saw as I went on. I dined at DURHAM on the sixteenth of July and slept at AUCKLAND. There is something uncommonly beautiful in every approach to DURHAM. Such an assemblage of hills, trees, and buildings arranged in such careless and yet commanding order is hardly to be seen any where. Fifty architectural drawings might be taken in as many directions, and all picturesque.

DURHAM stands on the side of a hill, and in a situation so pleasant, healthy and plentiful, that it is not wonderful the neighbouring gentry should frequent it. It is encompassed by a wall, and defended by a castle, which is the bishop's palace. This castle as we are told was built by WILLIAM the Norman, and altered by many of the bishops, who have had possession of it, which is the reason no doubt why it exhibits at this time such a fabric of patch-work. The Cathedral seems to have arisen to its present tremendous bulk by the gathering plate; for the statue of St. CUTHBERT, to which saint it was originally dedicated, having been placed in the ruins of the old building, endowed, of course, with the virtues usually attributed upon these occasions, of healing, bestowing benedictions, and all the etceteras, multitudes of all descriptions brought their offerings; every thing was taken that they offered; and enough was soon amassed, not only to swell the church into its present size, but to reserve a trifle for the *menu plaisirs* of the chapter.

Certainly the sum requisite to erect, extend, and ornament this pile, must have been immense. On the south side of the Cathedral is a roomy cloyster; on the east side the deanery, and the old library. In the chapter-house are buried sixteen bishops; the whole building is strongly vaulted, and supported by large pillars; the choir is large and convenient, and every part contrived to answer the intended purpose of giving collateral aid to the general effect, which is stately and commanding. To the south of the Cathedral is a quadrangle, consisting of houses for the prebendaries. On the east side, opposite the College-gate is the exchequer, in which are lodged the officers belonging to the palatine

court. On the north side is a college school, with a house for the master; and between the church-yard and the castle is an area called the palace-green. There is also an hospital. There are two schools; and near to the county hall, where the assizes and sessions are held for the county, is a spacious library. Almost all of these buildings have been either erected or improved by Bishop COSIN. The bishop of DURHAM is a temporal prince, an earl, sheriff paramount of the county, and he appoints his deputy, who makes up his audits to him without accounting to the exchequer. He is also, as count palatine, lord of the city, and appoints all officers of justice, and other inferior magistrates.

In our way to AUCLAND, we passed through the bishop's grounds, and saw the inside of the palace, which was grand, stately, cold, and formal; and, as the decorations are merely at the cost and pleasure of every bishop for the time being, they were of course disjointed and incongruous, and exhibited specimens of different tastes, rather than objects selected by the judgment or fancy of one mind; which is perfectly in its place. The clergy, so they have the good things of this world, seldom, I believe care how they are arranged; and thus promiscuous plenty are their constant lot, from the parson's barn to the bishop's palace.

As to botanic productions in this county, I can learn of none peculiar to it. The wild northern cherry, with small late ripe fruit, grows near BERNARD-CASTLE, and the wild red currants are found in different places. These, with the shrub cinquefoil, and the common ox-eye, are all that will be material to mention. DURHAM has produced celebrated characters. It is only in my power to speak of a very few.

BEDA, called the venerable BEDE, from his piety and learning, was born at a place called JARROW. Before he entered into holy orders he carried arms. His wonderful talents have been felt and acknowledged by all readers of learning and refined taste. His Ecclesiastical History of ENGLAND is a most valuable work; but to speak in his praise is only to echo the voice of fame, which, though it could not say too much in praise of his talents, has acted the gossip a little as to his birth, by giving it to other countries. That honour, however, clearly belongs

to the county of DURHAM. TONSTALL, Bishop of DURHAM, was born at WICKLIFFE. He was much respected for his talents and piety, even by those who deprived him of his bishoprick at the reformation. JACKSON, a learned divine of the seventeenth century, was a native of WILTON; he published many theological productions.

SMITH, celebrated by some works of learning, but by nothing so much as giving the world an edition of the writings of BEDE, was born at DURHAM. BALIOL, founder of BALIOL COLLEGE, OXFORD, was born at BAYNARD-CASTLE. He married DENGORVILLE, one of the three daughters and co-heiresses of ALAN of GALLOWAY, a baron of SCOTLAND, by MARGARET, the eldest sister of JOHN SCOT, the last Earl of CHESTER, and one of the heirs to DAVID, some time Earl of HUNTINGTON, and it was in consequence of this connection that his son JOHN afterwards ascended the throne of SCOTLAND; all which chequered honours, however, will not serve to consecrate his memory so worthily as his college.

LILBURNE was born in 1610, at a place called THICKNEY PUNCHARDEN, in this county. He is celebrated by the persecutions he endured for publishing what the Star Chamber deemed libels. He was committed prisoner to the FLEET, whipped at the cart's tail, set in the pillory in PALACE-YARD; and, when he addressed the people, the officers of justice put a gag in his mouth. He was afterwards arraigned as a traitor, but at length discharged. He now attacked CROMWELL in the plenitude of his power, and severely terrified him by his famous pamphlet, called *Killing no Murder*. Indeed, neither the loudest threats nor the severest punishments could intimidate him. He was twice thrown into the TOWER, twice tried for high treason, and on both trials acquitted. He was afterwards condemned in a fine of seven thousand pounds, and banished from the kingdom; but he found means to return, and settled and died at ELTHAM, in KENT, at the age of thirty-nine.

With thanks for your attention and solicitude,

I am, my dear sir,

Leicester-Place, Yours with perfect sincerity,

Feb. 28, 1802. C. DIBDIN.

	Barnard Castle	Darlington	Durham	Hartlepool	Stockton	Sunderland	Wolsingham	London
Thurs. Auckland to	14	21	10	31	26	23	8	257
Barnard Castle to		17	25	39	29	38	16	247
Mond. Darlington to			19	21	12	32	32	244
Sat. Durbam to				21	18	13	17	260
Sat. Hartlepool to					10	19	35	365
Wed. Stockton to						26	32	249
Frid. Sunderland to							30	276
Tues. Wolsingham to								263

DURHAM.

DURHAM sends two members to parliament for the county, and two for the city of DURHAM. STOCKTON only is governed by a Mayor and Aldermen.

LETTER LXX.

QUACK MEDICINES.

WILLIAM WOODFALL, Esq.

MY DEAR SIR,

When a man, for the purpose of general justice, and out of love to his moral duty, considers himself called upon in his public strictures to expose nefarious professional paractices, he can have no other motive nor bias than the welfare of his fellow creatures; for so much left-handed fame is pilfered and smuggled into every profession, that, as mankind seldom take the trouble to discriminate, the semblance passes current for the reality; and, while impudent pretenders retire with fortunes, men of modesty, the constant attendant on real merit, are too often insulted by that world they might mend and ornament, but which, thus deserted, they pity and forgive.

As there are professions, physic and law for example, more obnoxious to reproof as to their dispensation than others, it is too common an idea, that whoever thinks proper to make them the object of an attack has rather an eye to root out their establishment than reprobate their practice. This, however, is not only unjust, but it is ridiculous; for that any man can have it even in conception to take away the prop intended as the support of his most desirable blessings, cannot be credited unless of a madman.

It has been said that I have all my life abused the lawyers. The assertion is false. If a number of facts have come to my knowledge which could not but convince me that the most abominable and infamous frauds are continually practised and connived at by unworthy members of that most respectable of all professions, for what can be so respectable as that which was instituted for the security of private property, and to enforce the bond of social intercourse, is it a crime to detect and expose them? If in this I have erred, I have erred with Lord KENYON, and every upright judge, to whose honour it is that, from this garden of society, which produces plants to nurture us, such noxious weeds should be exterminated.

At any rate, this is neither the time nor the place to make such enquiry, for in this letter I do not mean to speak of legal but medical impostors. I shall therefore only contend that the more I say against empyrics in any profession, the higher compliment I pay to men of real skill and sound reputation, and that every exposition of roguery and ignorance is an honourable tribute to worth and ability. Taking this latitude, I think I am upon honest ground, especially protected by the motive which governs me. Edged tools and poisons are serious things to jest with. We may trifle in our pleasures, blameably perhaps, because folly is the utmost risk we can incur; but to trifle with existence, though it is our constant practice, swells folly, morally speaking, into crime, and indeed of so heinous a nature that it may finish in murder.

Poor GOLDSMITH lost his life by an injudicious use of JAMES's Powders; and if, with a man of his understanding, who to my knowledge could boast among his numerous friends four or five eminent physicians, ready to have flown to his assistance, and by a medicine which is universally allowed to possess great virtues, this was possible, what may be the probable fate of hundreds, who, in total ignorance what to do, are perpetually drenching themselves with mixtures, and choaking themselves with pills, which it ought to be their fervent prayer may do them neither good nor harm, for then they will only have lost their money.

I shall not go into an examination of what way patents may be obtained for quack medicines. I think at least that the virtues of the ingredients ought in some manner to undergo an examination by the College of Physicians, in order to ascertain whether the practitioner, who has been perhaps a porter in an apothecary's shop, is possessed of such universal knowledge, as to entitle him to a licence, and consequently a sanction from government to administer the same medicine for every possible complaint. This precaution, however, has never been thought expedient. I know that the recipe is made public, but the ignorant gain nothing by this, and the enlightened have no wish to forfeit their title to that distinction by such fool-hardiness as to stem the torrent of public opinion. Thus the medicine being unopposed, is advertised; it runs like wild-fire, take the figure which way you will, and so the stamps, the nostrum, and the advertisements are paid for, no man thinks it worth his while to enquire how many are killed or cured by the prescription.

It is as much the business of quacks to take advantage of credulity as it is of gamblers. The purse is the object, and so that be secured, it is a matter of as much indifference to one that the dupe dies of a fever or a consumption, as to the other that the pigeon puts an end to his existence by a pistol or a halter. When I say this, I speak of rank impostors. Will not the readers of this letter be struck with astonishment to be told that a fortune must be adventured in advertisements before a quack medicine can succeed at all, and that when it has once taken nothing can stop its sale. Some label, seal, or device, prettily fancied, points out the bottle or the box; it is curiously displayed in the shew-glass of every bookseller and perfumer in the kingdom; and, as soon as its universal virtues have become the theme of hysterical girls and spasmodic old women, its reputation is confirmed and its inventor's fortune made.

What can do all this but immense expence, which must be ventured and kept up, and at all places at once; for, if the money should be in some instances thrown away, it never fails to be well brought up in others. I know that the proprietor of a newspaper in the country receives forty pounds a year from one man for the insertion of his advertisements, and yet he does not annually take

forty shillings for the sale of this universal specific. I know that a quack offered thirty pounds a year to the proprietor of a newspaper to suppress the advertisements of another quack. These medicines are therefore not intended to cure but gull the public, who evidently fall into the snare, otherwise, how could these offers and these losses be afforded?

When I see goods advertised to be sold at what are called cheap shops, I know the expence is immense, and, therefore, no man can make me believe but that they are much under the value even of that low price at which they are exposed to sale. What then must be the profit on quack medicines? one of which I am told is advertised at a charge of twelve-thousand pounds a year; nor is this an assertion to startle at, when it is considered how many newspapers there are, that the advertisements are sometimes a guinea a piece, and that the doctor can afford, as we have seen to lose forty-pounds a year upon one paper out of a necessity to keep up intelligence throughout the whole circle; but there are other expences. Writers of advertisements at the rate of a halfpenny a line, and find paper, which I understand are the terms, pick up a very pretty livelihood. Some, indeed, who covenant to insert wit and poetry are better paid, and are even invited to be witty at the doctor's table, whose sideboard vies with that of a nobleman.

False witnesses to pretended certificates are also a heavy charge; and there are many other wheels without which this engine could not keep going, but which in spight of all their barefaced impudence, though every day liable to detection, are crammed down the throats of the public with as much facility as the nostrums they are written to recommend. The doctor, however, does not always escape scot free. I know an instance to the contrary. A gentleman took out a cargo of these grand specifics to India. He did not find any particular good or ill effects from them, and therefore had no right nor inclination to be particularly lavish in their praise. Scarcely, however, had he been abroad long enough for a letter to reach ENGLAND when the papers were full of advertisements, with the gentleman's name at length, certifying the miracles these medicines had performed. The doctor, however, had not bargained for the consequences. The

gentleman was shewn some of the certificates in India, and took his resolution upon the spot. In consequence of which, no sooner had he arrived in his native country but he made it his business to enquire out the doctor, and having found him, gave him a good horsewhipping.

The intended operation of this certificate, for which the doctor risked a castigation, was like Mr. Punch to get a good name abroad; and thus incredible loads of this trash are continually exported. I could enumerate some lamentable consequences occasioned by an ignorant administration of these drugs among seafaring men, unacquainted as they are with the influence of seasons and climates on the human constitution, particularly in cases of difficulty and delicacy. In fighting ships, however, where there are regular bred surgeons, this is not much to be apprehended; the bearing of the fact is however obvious. Men full of simplicity and honour, for such, from their want of general intelligence with the world, are the usual qualifications in sailors, suspect no imposition; and with the same good will with which they would relieve or assist a fellow creature, as they call it for love, they rely upon receiving relief from the doctor for money.

What astonishes me is, that the eyes of mankind cannot continue open, even with this prop applied to them by common sense; for the advertiser never minces the matter; these nostrums are to cure all the long catalogue of complaints which arise from profligacy and dissipation. What is this but an invitation to intemperance, and what man, what young man in particular, need concern himself how far the constitution may be tampered with, when, with as little ceremony as he entrusts his watch to be cleaned by a watchmaker, he may confide the restoration of his health to the skill of a quack doctor? Is not this to say, in so many words, Plunge into every excess, create artificial disorders, swallow poisons, and call them wine and spirits, unhinge the sinews of life, and sap the foundation of existence; and, when you are given over by the whole faculty, come to me and I'll cure you. What pity that men cannot live sober, careful, and moderate; for temperance, like repentance, seldom comes too late, if it were only for the pleasure of starving the empyrics.

Of all complicated complaints inflicted on human nature, the most lamentable are those brought on by drunkenness; and yet of all unfortunate men, one pities drunkards the least. It is a very pointed truth, that the difference between a paralytic and a dead man is, that the paralytic is a dead man who suffers, and that the dead man is a paralytic whose sufferings are over. What then shall we say of the drunkard, who, with this truth staring him in the face, is a paralytic with his own consent? But with all this we are not contented with putting an enemy in our mouths, which, as SHAKESPEARE has said, steals away our brains, we seek to drive it out with another that undermines our existence.

I know that there are many quack, or patent medicines, as they are more politely called, highly approved of by the faculty, who are not only willing, but occasionally anxious to recommend them; but I have given a pretty strong proof, that, in inexperienced hands, the best of them may do infinite mischief. It answers no end that the paper of instructions holds out an explanation of the manner in which they should be applied, and describes all that variety of complaints they are calculated to cure. One single observation knocks all these boasted advantages in the head. Nothing should be given in the way of medicine but according to circumstances; that which is a balm to one man may be a poison to others. Nor is it in any respect safe or adviseable to trust to self experience, and those who with too much security rely upon the well known trite observation, may be assured that there are more fools at forty than physicians.

Two or three sober remarks will bring me to the end of this subject. Common self-evident complaints require nothing more than common self-evident remedies. Artificial complaints, which arise from excesses, are complex, and require the skill, and indeed the close attention of a physician. Imaginary complaints are in the mind, and cannot be reached by any skill at all. All you have therefore to do is, in the first case, to consult Dr. LAST; in the second, to resort to the advice of some able and friendly physician; and, in the third, to call in the assistance of reason. This done firmly and with discretion, nostrums would be annihilated; quack doctors would sell their chariots and side-boards, and the world would go as it did. Then would temperance and prudence be the pur-

veyors of our pleasure; then would wholesome exercise brace our nerves, and diffuse over our countenances the glow of health; then would keen appetite conquer palling satiety; and then would the operations of the kitchen triumph over the labours of the laboratory.

Yours, my dear Sir,

Leicester-Place, very sincerely,

March 1, 1802. C. DIBDIN.

LETTER LXXI.

YORKSHIRE.

Rev. W. BINGLEY.

DEAR SIR,

I ACCEPT with pleasure your offer to receive my remarks relative to YORKSHIRE. Your thorough acquaintance with that county, and your intimate knowledge of such particulars as are proper to be inserted in a tour, which you have abundantly and agreeably manifested in your Tour through WALES, point you out as exactly the correspondent to whom an account of so large and so curious a place should be addressed. My observations, however, though I shall make them comprehensive, must nevertheless be concise.

YORKSHIRE is by much the largest county in ENGLAND. It is bounded on the north by the German Ocean and the bishoprick of DURHAM, from which, however, it is separated by the river Tees; on the east, again by the German Ocean; on the south, by LINCOLNSHIRE, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE, DERBYSHIRE, and a small part of CHESHIRE; and on the west, by LANCASHIRE and WESTMORELAND. It extends in length about a hundred and fourteen miles, in breadth about eighty, and is in circumference about three hundred and sixty. It is divided into three Ridings, which are subdivided into twenty-six wapentakes, of which the North Riding con-

tains twelve, the East Riding four, and the West Riding ten. It is situated in the province and diocese of YORK, except RICHMOND, which belongs to the diocese of CHESTER. It contains fifty-four market towns, and sends thirty members to parliament.

The principal rivers in YORKSHIRE are the Derwent, the Ouse, the Hull, the Swale, the Ure, the Nidd, the Wharfe, the Are, the Calder, the Don, the Tees, and the Ribble, to which may be added the Humber, which is, however, rather an estuary or gulf, and receives most of the above rivers.

The Derwent rises near WHITBY; and running first south and then east, receives the Rye and several smaller streams. It then turns to the south, passes NEW MALTON and HOWDEN, and then turning to the east, falls into the Ouse just before its influx into the Humber. The Hull rises in YORK-WOULD, and running south and east, passes by BEVERLY, and then flowing southward, falls into the Humber at KINGSTON, which is therefore called KINGSTON-UPON-HULL. The Ouse is composed of several rivers, and only begins to take this name at the junction of the Swale and Ure near YORK. It passes through York, and running first to the southward, winds south-west by SELBY, and then turning eastward, receives the Derwent, and afterwards falls, as I have already described, into the Humber.

The Swale rises near the spring of the Ure, and runs in a rapid stream south-east, through a tract of country called SWALEDALE, to RICHMOND, near which place it becomes a cataract, and afterwards, continuing its course south-east, it falls into the Ouse at ALDBOROUGH, near YORK. The Ure rises in a mountainous tract on the borders of WESTMORELAND, and running east, passes by ASHRIG, MIDDLEHAM, and MASHAM. It then turns south-east, and flows by RIPPON and BOROUGHBRIDGE, soon after which it receives the Swale, and passing on towards YORK, loses itself in the Ouse. The Nidd rises among the CRAVEN-HILLS, and passing by RIPPON and KNARESBOROUGH, falls into the Swale. The Werfe, or Wharf, also rises among the CRAVEN-HILLS, and after running parallel to the Nidd, passes by OTLEY, WETHERBY, and TADCASTER, and joins the Ouse near SELBY.

The Are rises near SETTLE, not far from the borders of LANCASHIRE, runs by SKIPTON, then winding to the east and south-east, it passes by LEEDS, PONTEFRACT, and SNAITH; it is joined by the Don, and soon after falls into the Ouse. The Don, or Dune, rises near the borders of CHESHIRE, runs south-east to SHEFFIELD, afterwards passes by ROTHERHAM and DONCASTER, and falls into the Are at SNAITH. The Calder rises in LANCASHIRE, and running eastward, falls into the Are near WAKEFIELD. The Ribble rises among the CRAVEN-HILLS, and passes into LANCASHIRE. The Tees I have already described. The streams in YORKSHIRE that are less considerable, and are swallowed up by those above, are the Rother, the Cork, the Washbrook, the Idle, the Hebden, the Went, the Dent, the Kebeck, the Hyde, the Foulness, the Gret, and the Revel; and thus we see that this fine county is well watered, even in proportion to its great extent.

There are a great variety of springs in YORKSHIRE, many of them well known. SCARBOROUGH and HARROWGATE waters are in particular very celebrated. Our ingenious friend Dr. GARNETT analyzed the latter, and I know his private opinion is, that it is the most efficacious for what it professes to cure in ENGLAND. The dropping well at KNARESBOROUGH is considered as a very great curiosity. The water is very cold and sweet, and is said to have a petrifying quality. The same accounts tell us that it has in it spar and sulphur, which proves that what has been imagined to be petrifactions are sometimes in the nature of the stalactites in DERBYSHIRE, which I have already described. The spring at GIGGLESWICK is something like the ebbing and flowing spring at TIDESWELL.

At GIGGLESWICK there is also a spring remarkable for yielding an alkaline nitrous salt, which is black, and has a smell of sulphur. At NEWTON DALE, in the North Riding, we are desired to believe that there is a water very cold and astringent, which petrifies every thing in its course. The process seems to me to be rather too quick, and the effect too universal. If all these springs have half the virtues which are attributed to them, it seems as if it were their own faults whenever the people of YORKSHIRE are sick. I must not forget the Vipsies, or Gypsies, which are said by the common people to be the forerunners of famine. In YORK-WOULD, after very rainy seasons, water frequently gushes out of

the earth, and rises to a considerable height. In these predictions of scarcity, the people are often in the right, without being able to account for it otherwise than by circumstances. Did they know the real cause, this gift of divination in them would cease, and the fact be seen as naked as any thing else; which, however extraordinary, apparently proceeds from a common and self-evident cause. The rain water being received and collected into large basons and caverns within the body of this mountainous tract, finds a vent below towards the bottom of the hills; but the vent being too small for the water to issue out as fast as it is collected above, it is forced upwards into jets or spouts, exactly upon the principle we form artificial fountains. Thus when the spring months have been so wet as to produce these spouts, there has been naturally a scarcity of corn. I wish scarcity could be always as well accounted for.

In so extensive a county the soil must of course, in its quality and capability, vary materially in the three partitions, which are called Ridings, originally Trithings, a term formerly used to describe the divisions of many other counties in the north of ENGLAND. The North Riding bounds the other two, and is divided into two parts. BLACKMOOR, the eastern part, lies towards the German Ocean, and consists of a hilly, rocky, and woody country. It is far, however, from being barren, for it abounds with all the necessaries of life. The north-west, called RICHMONSHIRE, from RICHMOND, the capital of the district, consists of one continued eminence, or large ridge of rocks and immense mountains, the sides of which yield good grass, and the vallies are very fruitful. The mountains contain mines of copper, lead, allum, stone, jet, marble, and coal; none are wrought, however, but the two last. Deer and goats feed on these mountains. SWALEDALE abounds with fine pastures; and WINTERDALE, which is watered by the Ure, is a rich fertile valley, well wooded, and stocked with vast herds of cattle.

The East Riding, which is the least of the three divisions, has a dry, sandy, and barren soil in general, but towards the sea-coast the vallies are very fertile, and the woulds produce corn, and feed great numbers of black cattle, horses, and sheep. Wood and coal are plenty; but coals are so cheap that wood is not sought for. The

sea near this coast swarms with herrings; large turbots, and a great variety of other fish are also caught here and this abundance is encreased and varied by the prodigious numbers of other fish which are caught in the rivers.

The soil of the West Riding is different in another way. On the western side of this division, the land is hilly and stony, and therefore not very fruitful; but the intermediate vallies afford plenty of excellent pasture, and, on the side next the Ouse, the arable land is very rich and productive. Wheat and barley grow here in great abundance, and even in the most barren part of this district oats are produced in high perfection. It is from this riding that the fine horses are brought that give elegance and splendour to the streets and squares of LONDON and WESTMINSTER. It abounds with parks and chases, and near SHEFFIELD is a park where an oak is said to have been cut down that had ten thousand feet of board in it. This, however, was in the beginning of the last century, and it is impossible to deny that the whole kingdom is thinned of its wood much more than in proportion to that which has been replaced.

As I have at different times traversed the greatest part of YORKSHIRE, in order to speak of that county generally and keep up the same warmth here that I felt as I made my observations, I shall pursue my route, and so revive in my memory every remarkable particular that attracted me as I went on. At RICHMOND I arrived from AUCKLAND on the seventeenth of July, 1800, and notwithstanding the various delight I received in SCOTLAND, and which with fervour I have described, I found there still were objects that demanded new admiration. This part of YORKSHIRE in all directions is deliciously beautiful. The country near RICHMOND in YORKSHIRE has been compared with that round RICHMOND in SURRY; but the comparison is ridiculous. One is full of prettiness, the other of grandeur; one is composed of trim, smug, gala-like beauty, the other of boldness, variety, and expansion. One smacks of the air of a court and the labours of art, the other of unrestrained freedom, and the works of nature.

Near MIDDLETON, about five miles from RICHMOND, there are some most beautiful prospects. They are a kind of mixed effect between DEVONSHIRE and SCOT-

LAND; for the trees consist of oaks, elms, and beeches, and there wants nothing of precipices to shew them to advantage; while the Tees in stately and silent grandeur throws a magnificence throughout the scene, with all the beautiful and united charms of a meandering river and a majestic lake. If this idea is carried further as you explore these most extraordinary regions, there is scarcely any effect in fancy or reality but may find similarity here. I will not pretend to say that it excells WESTMORELAND, near WINDERMERE, for I do not see how any thing can do that; but the views are of those most miraculously extensive kind, that they unite something of both WESTMORELAND and CUMBERLAND; the consequence is that you grasp astonishment and forget delight. An author, and a very ingenious one, speaking of the bird's-eye view from a place called DIRT-PIT, near NEW-BIGGINS, which is said to be the finest in the world, wishes for the united talents of ZUCCARELLI, POUSSIN, CLAUDE, and SALVATOR ROSA, to give a sketch of this scene; which proves that it is an object for admiration but not for painting; for, were those artists alive, and set to work at this task, the result would be a mass of incongruity.

RICHMOND is beautifully situated on the Swale, which river encompasses half the town; and precipitating from the rocks, forms a fine cataract. The town, is large, chearful, and populous. The views around it are charming and every where singularly romantic. If I could have been tempted to put a town into a picture it would have been RICHMOND. The effect is this. A magnificent hanging wood on the right, forming an amphitheatre, and terminated by the town, and the ruins of the old castle made one great mass; circularly on to the left is a charming valley, through which, issuing from the furthest extent of the hanging wood, the river glides in the most romantic direction; so that in its progress it has every advantage of light and shadow that in painting can give transparency to water. In the center where these masses meet are hills comfortably compacted together giving the most quiet and broad effect to the distance. For a foreground you may take your choice, you may have rudeness or you may have culture. In the exact spot which answers to this description, a small portion of the ruins of St. AGATHA, partially concealed by two graceful trees which tower

almost to the top of the picture, forms its boundary on the left, and under your feet an irregular declivity cuts the line of the river.

A number of very beautiful views might be taken near RICHMOND, and for several miles round it. I must not, however indulge myself in enumerating them, and shall finish this neighbourhood with remarking that GROSSE was a considerable time there collecting his antiquities, among which, though he may have extracted some gems, he certainly found plenty of rubbish. If he really believed that at THORNBOROUGH there is a place where sacrifices were performed to the infernal deities, and that an immensely long leaden pipe conveyed the blood of the victims into the caverns below to make the ceremony more awful, he was not then the man I took him to be about eight and thirty years ago, when he treated his friends with great hospitality and seemed not to care much for the age of any thing but his wine.

If I cannot go into this place of sacrifice, much less can I be expected to speak particularly of St. MARTIN'S, near RICHMOND, the Benedictine nunnery at MELSONBY, or that other at the same place dedicated to St. AUGUSTINE, or St. AGATHA, which is in many situations very picturesque, and from which I brought the sketch of a window of an architecture completely unknown to me, which by the way is not very extraordinary for I hate to have my head filled with cobwebs. It is however impossible to pass by the famous and stout dispute which has never yet been settled concerning a village called CATARACT, situated near the cataract formed by the Swale, which I have mentioned speaking of the course of that river. The dispute is whether the village takes its title from the cataract, or the cataract from the village.

That the latter cannot be the case, say very sagaciously one party, because this village was formerly a mighty city, and no less than the CATURACTONIUM and CATARACTON of PTOLEMY and ANTONINUS; and, to make this feasible, they insist that CARACTICUS the son of CUNOBELINE was born there, and originally called CATARACTUS. These are strong proofs to be sure; but say the others, they are only suppositious ours are positive. Does not the Swale in that place form a cataract?

Is not the word cataract unerring and decisive? Has it not been understood from the earliest times to mean a fall of water? and even, suppose all these fine things which are said of this paltry village, once a mighty town, is it not more likely that it should be called by a name universally understood to mean a fall of water, than that it should have a radical appellation of its own, by which all the falls of water in the world were from that moment commanded to be called. To be sure, they may archly retort that what we call a cataract, the ancients called a *catadupa*; and, upon recollection, this is not much out of place, for that word begat the same sort of dispute among a people in ETHIOPEA, near EGYPT, who inhabit a spot close to one of the falls of the Nile.

I left RICHMOND, and arrived at RIPPON on the twenty-first. This town appeared to me to have been formerly of consequence, but at that time much lowered. The Market-place is very extensive; but I am not willing to allow, which is the general idea there, that it is one of the finest squares in ENGLAND. This town had once a considerable trade in the woollen manufacture; at present, having a large and well frequented race-ground, its principal commodity, like that of SWAFFHAM, in NORFOLK, seems to be spurs. Though I am not much accustomed to speak of churches, as there is something remarkable to be noticed of the church at RIPPON, I think it would be wrong to let it pass by.

In the times of popery, this church was famous for a piece of priestcraft practised in it, by which money was exacted by the canons. It had a strait passage into a close vaulted room, so constructed that none could pass through it but such as were favoured. This passage was called St. WILFRED'S NEEDLE, and was used in the nature of the plough-shares, but more cunningly, because more privately, to prove the chastity of such women as were suspected of incontinence. When any one was accused, if she was prudent enough to satisfy the priest, either by commutation or in kind, she was given the clue, and so threaded the needle, but, if she was refractory, she stuck in the passage.

From RIPPON on the following day I got to HARROWGATE, which place, being very full of visitors, gave me an idea of company on a race-ground, for it exhibited some inns, a few straggling houses, and an expanse of common as brown

as a berry, for as to fertility, SALISBURY-PLAIN is an ARABIA felix to it. They go here to the opposite extreme of what I have complained of in my letter on retirement; and as there I have found it necessary to reprobate distance and want of cordiality, so here every thing is too full of freedom, and too much in common. A man may, according to the routine of the inns at HARROWGATE, sit down at dinner between a countess and a milliner; a species of levelling that cannot happen even in a stage-coach, or, if it could, the journey would soon be at an end. I am, however, encroaching upon a second letter, which I shall hereafter write on watering-places, and therefore I shall at present forego the subject with a remark, that the worst operation of this promiscuous intercourse is the conduct and manners of servants; for it is morally impossible, with so much liberty, familiarity, and opportunity of practising the ready tricks of art and cunning, which I have already proved is the systematic rule of that fraternity, that novices at their arrival at HARROWGATE, will there become adepts, and as capable as willing to corrupt afterwards all who come in their way.

From HARROWGATE I proceeded to LEEDS on the twenty-fourth. This astonishingly busy and opulent place continued to have all the bustle in which I had been formerly accustomed to see it; but it seemed to have lost much of that fine generous freedom for which I had then admired it. This was so evident that I could not avoid noticing it, and in consequence found that the prodigious number of Quakers, and other sectaries, which have within a few years settled there, have completely altered the complexion of the place. It is, however, perhaps much richer than ever. LEEDS has been, according to the lovers of antiquity, a variety of things. It has been a village, a farm worth seven pounds four shillings; it has been a wood in a town, and a town in a wood. It is now, however, what I have described it, and will no doubt long continue one of the seats of industry and opulence by which this commercial nation is so nobly distinguished.

I am, dear Sir,

Leicester-Place. very sincerely yours,

March 1, 1802. C. DIBDIN.

LETTER LXXII.

YORKSHIRE.

Rev. W. BINGLEY.

DEAR SIR,

BEFORE I sit down at WAKEFIELD, where I have had upon many occasions the great pleasure of conversing with some of your friends, I shall perform a promise made in my first volume of relating some particulars concerning other places in YORKSHIRE, which I had visited upon former occasions, and which necessary and pleasurable employment I naturally reserved, that I might have a correspondent well acquainted with my subject, and also to bring the whole of my observations on this extensive and interesting county into one point of view.

I have been almost every where in YORKSHIRE. Upon the present occasion I shall begin north, and so work my way on to the southward, rather however by trips than in a direct course. GUISBOROUGH is a town situated in the road from WHITBY to DURHAM. It stands on a rising ground, in a delightful region, and has a remarkably pure air, so mild, indeed, that it is adorned with a variety of wild flowers almost all the year round, on which account it has been compared to PUTEOLI in ITALY. The town is neat and chearful, but I know of nothing it is

particularly famous for, except that it furnishes conversation for those who are willing to believe that, at a place called ACKLAM, at no great distance from it, under a huge mount called SIVERS, the body of SEVERUS was burnt, and, which is a matter of equal importance, his ashes, being deposited in a vessel of porphery, were afterwards carried to ROME.

WHITBY is a well built town, situated on the German Ocean, at the mouth of a small river called the Esk. It has a custom-house and a good harbour, and the best and strongest vessels used in ENGLAND for the coal-trade are built there. There are nearly four hundred vessels of considerable burthen belonging to this port, and it cannot but be in other respects a place of very considerable consequence, for there are extensive alum mines in the neighbourhood, and many thousand tons of lime and chaldrons of coals are used in the alum works. They have a very large coasting trade in time of peace, consisting of butter, fish, hams, alum, tallow, and a variety of other articles; and in time of war, their ships are let out for the transport service. Their foreign commerce reaches to almost every part of EUROPE; they have been successful in the whale fishery, and they import rice, timber, hemp, pitch, tar, turpentine, and other useful commodities. After this, it is almost unnecessary to say that their universal passion is whatever regards their marine; and indeed they have such a spirit of prudent industry and bold enterprize, that among other establishments that manifest this noble and patriotic ardour, they have three insurance companies for the purpose of securing individuals from the danger of ruin from carrying on bold and hazardous undertakings. This spirit is a good deal in the style of LIVERPOOL.

I thought it much more to my purpose to enumerate these valuable advantages, than to insult my readers with the curious story of HILDA, a lady of great devotion; who certainly, if ancient writers are to be believed, built a nunnery, and amused herself with turning snakes into stones, and who had a knack, whenever she had a fancy for a few wild geese, to impart such an impure quality to the air that these fascinated birds would, according to the words of the author before me, "suddenly fall to the ground, to the great amazement of the beholders." It is astonishing how much has been said to lend credit to this fable, exactly as

drowning men catch at straws; for, as there are what are called snake stones found on the slaty shore when the tide recedes, which are rolled up in spiral volutes, but which by no means are common only to this place, all the rest has of course been taken for granted. In short, the bold rock which forms this harbour is, like many others, composed of various materials which have undergone infinite alterations by the constant flux and reflux of the tide; conical stones, petrified wood, and other curious objects, have been discovered; and at length the curiosity of the Royal Society has been roused by a fosil skeleton, which, after a great number of experiments, would have been ascertained, according to the Philosophical Transactions, to be a petrified lizard, were it not that it is fourteen feet long. I think it would have been a better thing to have called it a crocodile at once, and added a few ingenious arguments to prove that the sea which washes the harbour of Whitby posseses some qualities of the Nile: But indeed this advice is rather unkind, and calculated to rob these discoverers of the merit of acuteness and certainty in their sagacious remarks, which, having gone into such great profoundness as to establish unequivocal conviction, have pronounced to set the thing to rights that the animal in question is antediluvian.

Scarborough is a most charming place by nature, and the great number of new buildings for the accommodation of the crowds of bathers who resort to it, have rendered it so by art. It is situated on a high rock, and surrounded by the sea, except on the west side, where it is joined to the continued land by a small isthmus, by which travellers enter this picturesque and romantic town. The harbour is a very fine one, and a very considerable trade, as at Whitby, is here carried on, of which place it has, however, considerably the advantage, on account of the prodigious numbers of persons who resort to it as a watering-place, consisting as usual of the rich, the gay, the curious, and the dissipated. It must be confessed, however, that the further you go north the less are places of this description infected by either rooks or pigeons.

In 1737 the famous spa, which has long attracted such numerous visitors had very nearly been lost. It lay south from the town; and, on the back of it was a high cliff fifty-four yards above water mark; upon a straith, or wharfe, formed

by stone and bound by timbers, stood the spa-house. On the twenty-eighth of December in the morning a tremendous crack was heard in the cellar, and upon an examination it was rent in several places. The following night another crack was heard, the house had materially varied from its erect position, and the people were advised to remove their goods. It was, however, too late, for another warning was given, and the top of the cliff rent in two, and that part towards the straith began to sink in and continued slowly to descend for several hours, till at length it settled seventeen perpendicular yards below its former level, all which was effected so gradually that cattle continued feeding on it the whole time, during which, that nothing might be lost, the sand under the cliff rose in proportion as the other fell, as if they had been weighed in a balance.

Whether this is a correct statement or not I will not pretend to say, but the whole of it even to the embellishment of the feeding cattle is certainly possible. The straith was formed on the sand; and, in consequence of its immense weight, pressing upon so spongy and porous a body it had been repaired till it would bear it no longer. The cliff partook at its foundation of the same unfaithful quality, till at length the bed not being any longer capable of sustaining such a monstrous weight, yielded to the pressure and rose on the sides, not perhaps exactly in the same proportion, but certainly in some proportion as the other fell, just as a voluptuary as he pressed the center of his bed would find the down which he had displaced rising on each side. By this accident of course the spa was lost for a time; but, upon clearing away the ruins, it was again happily discovered; and, according to the physicians, whose accounts were no doubt impartial and disinterested, in a very improved state.

BEVERLEY is a town of much spirit and respectability. Being only nine miles from HULL, and seated on a canal cut from that opulent sea port, capable of conveying ships of considerable burden, there is a perpetual bustle and business going forward; which, mixed with the appearance of affluence in the residences of gentlemen of independent fortune, many inhabitants of which description it boasts, render it a place of very considerable importance. The jurisdiction of the mayor and corporation is said to extend over a hundred villages, and also

a considerable district called HOLDERNESS, between the Humber and the sea. The sessions for the East Riding are held at this place and there is an office for publickly registering wills and deeds for that division. One of the churches was formerly collegiate, and there is a long history of the different changes it has undergone; but I fancy there are but few who will thank me for endeavouring to prove whether the bones of St. JOHN of BEVERLEY, Archbishop of YORK were deposited there; whether the picture at the end of the church is a likeness of the sainted archbishop; whether the chair of refuge at the upper end of the choir, called the Freedstool, or chair of peace, to "which if any criminal flee he shall have "full security," was the first that was appropriated to such purpose, or whether the church was originally built or only repaired after a fire by ATHELSTAN.

I shall pass by HORNSEA, a town seated on the coast, and almost surrounded by a small arm of the German Ocean, where the church practically prays for travellers at sea by exhibiting in its steeple a handsome and commanding sea-mark; the small village of MEAUX, peopled originally from NORMANDY, and called after a well known city in that province, NUNKLING with its famous priory, the value of which was ascertained by SPEED and disputed by DUGDALE, the fine possessions near RISBY, and the hills with their charming view of the Humber, with the Trent falling into it on one side, and the Ouse and many other objects, which mark this as a most interesting country, and go at once to HULL.

This spirited town, which has improved with a rapidity even to astonishment, received its name of KINGSTON, or KING'S-TOWN, from EDWARD the Third, who founded it; but, being situated on the river Hull, as in many other cases, it is called simply HULL. This place has gradually thrived for a number of years. Fresh advantages and fresh immunities have marked its progress, and therefore it is not wonderful that we should be told, as matters of considerable importance, that the mayor had one sword given him by RICHARD the Third, another by HENRY the Eighth, that he has a cap of maintenance, an oar of lignum vitæ, and that he is admiral within the liberties of the Humber,

HULL is a very large town and in general well built. Some of the streets are wide and handsome, and it is every where remarkably well paved and exceedingly

populous. The town is encompassed by a wall and a ditch, where it is not defended by the Humber, and fortified by a castle, a citadel, and a blockhouse. The great improvements of HULL which have not had any material check are almost such as to exceed belief, for a short time only has been consumed in bringing them to an astonishing degree of perfection. Thirty years ago only a hundred and fifty ships were employed in this port. Fourteen years ago, when I was there, a new dock was nearly completed, and now I understand the receptacles for shipping are more than to three times the extent they were then.

T hre are infinite advantages boasted by HULL over almost every other sea-port. Being seated on the rivers that fall into the Humber, the merchants are enabled to export manufactures to almost every part of the world; and, with respect to the inland trade, the rivers that fall into the Humber not only reach great part of YORKSHIRE, but LINCOLNSHIRE, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE, STAFFORDSHIRE, DERBYSHIRE, CHESHIRE, and WARWICKSHIRE; and, besides that the returns from these different counties are exported to HOLLAND, HAMBURGH, FRANCE, SPAIN, the BALTIC, and other parts of EUROPE, various commodities such as iron, copper, hemp, flax, canvas, RUSSIA linen, and yarn, wine, oil, and fruit, and various other articles, are returned back to an astonishing amount. In short there can be no doubt that, were the slave trade out of the question, which would bid fairest to become the most principal sea-port, LIVERPOOL or HULL.

Of MALTON and THIRSKE there is no great matter to notice. I shall therefore speak concisely of NORTHALLERTON, and then go to YORK. Not that I mean to give the particulars of the battle fought in the reign of King STEPHEN against DAVID of SCOTLAND, although the spot still called STANDARD-HILL in commemoration, was pointed out to me, and the Scots pits where the slain were buried as it is believed, are yet to be seen, but merely to say that this sprightly busy town is full of heartiness and good-fellowship, and that it has a most respectable and opulent neighbourhood.

YORK is known by every one who frequents the north road, and is an object that excites and gratifies the curiosity of strangers; but it is by no means what

the world in general think of it. The minster announces this city at an immense distance, and when you enter the place you may find yourself within fifty yards of it, without the smallest suspicion of whereabout it is situated. I think I say upon a former occasion that except the church and the gaol there is no one object that conveys an idea of superiority to any place around, that certainly it is in the center of all the great north roads, and therefore the inns alone thrive there, for it is constantly busy without having any thing to do, and, though always crammed, it is thinly inhabited.

York is situated two-hundred miles south-south-east of Edinburgh, a hundred and sixty north-east of Chester, and a hundred and ninety-two miles nearly north of London. As it stands on a point where the boundaries of the three ridings meet, and is a county of itself, it belongs to neither riding. That it has a long illustrious line of ancestry both Ptolemy and Antoninus bear witness; and, if it would do it any good, Adrian had a garrison and Severus died there and what was still more honorable Constantine the Great was there proclaimed emperor. These circumstances, three military ways, some undecypherable inscriptions, and other matters of equal moment have conferred on this city a sort of hereditary right to be as proud as a poor Welshman with a long pedigree in his pocket, especially as it is the only city except London that is governed by a Lord Mayor; but in the scale of real consequence what sort of a figure does it cut by the side of Leeds or even Halifax? The prison is a most magnificent building, the cathedral is perhaps one of the most noble Gothic structures in the world, the market is a most plentiful larder for the supply of the prodigious number of inns where so many hungry travellers regale themselves in their way to Newcastle and Edinburgh; but when these have first whetted and afterwards gratified their appetites, if the post chaise should not be ready, I know not any place where a man might yawn himself into *ennui* sooner than at York. Remember I say this generally. No man knows better than I do that warmth, friendship and hospitality are to be found in this city.

I shall now return to WAKEFIELD, with its three handsome streets, and its bridge thrown over the Calder by EDWARD the Fourth, in memory of his father, RICHARD, Duke of YORK, who was slain there, when MARGARET of ANJOU ordered his head to be placed on YORK gates, that so, as she said, YORK might look at YORK. This town contains many vestiges of antiquity; but it contains, what I think a better thing, a great number of industrious inhabitants, and a large trade is carried on in different branches of the woollen manufacture, and particularly dying. HEATH, at the distance of something more than a mile from WAKEFIELD, is one of the sweetest situations, and I should suppose most elegant and sociable neighbourhoods, in the kingdom. Indeed I have many reasons, of which you know, and for which the public will give me credit, to consider WAKEFIELD and its neighbourhood a spirited and liberal spot.

PONTEFRACT, situated near the conflux of the rivers Are and Don, is a neat pleasant town. The word PONTEFRACT is clearly broken bridge, according to the old French; and for the satisfaction of those who are full of anxiety concerning roots of language and derivations, it is explained that, as a multitude of people were standing on the bridge, to hail the Archbishop of YORK on his return from ROME, the bridge broke down, and great numbers fell into the river; but that, owing to the prayers of the Archbishop, no person was either hurt or drowned. To be sure some reject this story, and have taken pains to prove that the bridge broke down some years before this bishop was born; but the general belief is with the multitude, who, as we have seen in the present instance, go with the stream.

Here are, as in general, churches, a charity-school, a priory, and so forth; and here they have their sociable parties, read novels, and cultivate liquorice, or, as it is vulgarly called, liquorish. A gentleman, by way of wit, told me that PONTEFRACT was remarkable for two things, *old* maids and *liquorish*.

DONCASTER, situated on the river Don, over which are thrown two handsome bridges, is a large, clean, well paved, insipid and inanimate town. About

a thousand years ago it was set on fire by lightning, and completely destroyed. It did not recover this blow at all for many centuries; and, though it was at last neatly and evenly built up, it still seems to be panic struck. It has its intervals certainly, and boasts, like the planets, its diurnal as well as its annual motions; not regularly, however, but by fits and starts; and, when the stage-coaches arrive, and the company assemble in the race week, it really manifests symptoms that it is inhabited.

ROTHERHAM, which is a kind of offset from SHEFFIELD, is placed on the banks of the Rother. It is a neat town, where the people, by the sweat of their brow, hammer out bread for themselves, and implements for others; and, being accustomed to labour at the anvil, they have taught themselves to beat time to the music of HANDEL by way of relaxation; not that this is confined to ROTHERHAM, for throughout YORKSHIRE, and a great part of LANCASHIRE, the most complex works of that great composer are bawled as vociferously, and almost as harmoniously, as a Dutch concert. I asked one of these fuliginous APOLLOS how they managed it when they first got HANDEL among them. His answer was, Weel niow I da na, Ize shuire. We fiound un curst crabbed at vurst, but we altered un, and then we fettled un pratty well.

SHEFFIELD is a large thriving and populous town. Its situation is at the commencement of those moors which, gradually extending to CASTLETON, and onwards towards CHAPPEL-EN-FRITH, form the high PEAK in DERBYSHIRE. Towards these hills the very inhabitants remove themselves to imbibe the fresh air, and it is curious enough to see the number of little boxes, of about fourteen feet square each, surrounded by gardens about four times as big as their shops, where these whittle-makers retire on a Sunday, to inhale a mixture of atmospheric air and the fumes of tobacco, by way of eradicating the effects of the soot and sulphur which have strangled respiration in the course of the week. To say the truth, nothing can be more annoying than the perpetual smoke in SHEFFIELD from the forges, nor more dismal than the appearance of the houses in consequence; but this cannot be held out in prejudice to that industrious town,

where hundreds of ingenious workmen are continually employed, that gluttons may eat, barbers shave, ladies cut out their work, and surgeons bleed their patients, with greater convenience and facility.

Nor does cutlery by any means comprise the whole of the indefatigable pursuits of this bustling town. The plating business is carried on to a prodigious extent, and there is a silk mill, copied from that at DERBY, of which I have already spoken, but it is not however so large. For the purpose of carrying the cutlery to perfection, it may be proper to describe an engine in which many grindstones are turned by a set of wheels, all of which receive their motion from one water wheel, encreasing in velocity from the first movement to the last, which turns round with such rapidity, that not the least motion can be perceived. Another engine is a tilting mill, in which an immense hammer, worked by a water wheel, is kept in constant motion on an anvil; and by the same power the bellows of an adjoining forge is kept regularly blowing.

HALIFAX, for its size, is as bustling and busy a town as any in YORKSHIRE, and where the inhabitants work as hard and sing as loud. That this place, now called HALIFAX, was formerly called HORTON, I shall certainly not pretend to deny, because I can shew no proof to the contrary; but that it happened in consequence of the murder by a priest of a young woman, whose head was fixed upon a yew tree, where it was regarded with a superstitious veneration, which veneration, when the head had rotted away, was transferred to the yew tree itself, now kept alive by the hairs of the head, which served as the fibres to circulate its nutriment; all which encreased the reputation of the miracle to such a degree, that it became the resort of persons of all descriptions, till at length from a small village it rose to be a considerable town: I say, that this was literally the case I am not prepared to believe; for, though wickedness is very natural, and a great deal too often the parent of superstition, yet I cannot see why this improving and lamentable tale should change HORTON to a word so totally unlike it as HALIFAX, unless, indeed, these sapient dealers in mystery had a mind to give a hint how very readily they are able to change black to white.

The industry and spirit of HALIFAX are so well known, and their influence so extensively felt, that, as it is impossible to say enough, so every attempt at a eulogium on this and the other manufacturing towns in this magnificent county, would be inadequate to their deserts. I therefore refer every man to his own experience for proof of the comfort and convenience enjoyed by means of their industry, and to all the woollen-drapers and taylors in the kingdom, to ascertain the immense quantity of cloth diffused from their looms.

I cannot quit HALIFAX without mentioning that the guillotine originated there, which circumstance is proved by facts which are not quite so problematical as the story of the young lady's head. Thefts, particularly the practice of stealing cloth in the night, were so common in and about HALIFAX, that in the reign of HENRY the Seventh, a bye-law, called the HALIFAX law, was made to prevent them, which law empowered the magistrates to punish with death all criminals who should be convicted of theft to the amount of thirteen-pence halfpenny. Those who were found guilty suffered death in the following manner. Near the town was an engine in the form of a very high gallows; in each of the two perpendicular posts was a groove, in which an axe was made to rise and fall by means of a pulley and a cord. The end of the cord was placed over a pin at a considerable height, and the criminal being placed on a block exactly in the center of the machine, the rope was slipped off the pin, and the head was cut off in a moment.

This engine was used at HALIFAX till 1620. Before its removal, however, the first Earl of MORTON, Regent of SCOTLAND, as he passed through HALIFAX, saw one of these executions, on which he caused a model of the engine to be taken, and carried it into his own country, where he had one erected upon the same plan, and called it a Maiden, from an idea that the sight of it would be sufficient to deter offenders, and therefore that it never would be used. He was, however, so much mistaken, that the first head it cut off was his own. The law that established this instrument of death is said to have given rise to the saying among thieves and vagrants, "From HELL, HULL, and HALIFAX, good Lord de-

"liver us." The reason why HULL is included, is the rigid discipline beggars meet with in that town; where all foreign poor were whipped, and the poor of the town set to work.

I am, dear sir,

Leicester-Place, Yours very sincerely,

March 2, 1802. C. DIBDIN.

LETTER LXXIII.

YORKSHIRE.

Rev. W. BINGLEY.

DEAR SIR,

I SHALL finish my observations on YORKSHIRE with a brief account of its botanic productions, and some particulars relative to the histories of its celebrated characters.

Having promised to reserve the subject of woad till this opportunity, I shall now describe its properties, and bring forward some circumstances relative to the establishment of what is called the YORKSHIRE Woad Company, a most laudable partnership, entered into in self defence against a monopolizing combination, which will serve here as a strong corroborative proof of those nefarious agricultural manœuvres which are practised by knaves, and permitted by the titled and the wealthy, under that sacred distinction the benefit of society.

Woad, *isatis*, is a genus of the *tetradynamia filiquosa* class. Its characters are these. The empalement of the flower is composed of four oval leaves, which spread open and fall away; the flour has four oblong petals placed in form of a cross, narrow at the base, but broad and obtuse at their ends; it has six stamina, four of which are as long as the petals, the other two are shorter; these are

terminated by oblong lateral summits; it has an oblong compressed germin, crowned by an obtuse stigma; the germin becomes an oblong compressed pod, with one cell, having two valves inclosing one oval compressed seed in the center. Of woad there are four species. The broad-leaved is the sort cultivated for the purposes of dying, which is not used as a colour in itself, but as a foundation and having the power to make indigo and other dark dyes give out their colour. We have always understood that it was with woad the ancient Britons were accustomed to dye their skins, but if it has merely this neutral quality, this supposed fact is certainly impossible.

Woad is a biennial plant; it flowers in July and the seeds ripen the beginning of September. The produce is astonishing provided every possible care be taken in manuring and cleaning the ground. A gentleman assured me that he bought a field in YORKSHIRE for the purpose of making an experiment of what the growth of it might be in that county, and that in three years the value of the crops paid the purchase money of the ground.

The mode of preparing the woad for dying is well known; but, as I am competent to describe its process, particularly as it is managed in FRANCE, I shall do so, under an idea that it may suggest some improvement. The plant puts forth at first five or six upright leaves about a foot long and six inches broad; when these hang down, and turn yellow, they are fit for gathering; five crops are gathered in a year; in ENGLAND I believe they have generally three and very rarely four. The leaves are carried directly to a mill and ground into a paste. The paste is laid in heaps, pressed close and smooth, and the blackish crust, which of course it forms, is re-united whenever it happens to crack; for, were this neglected, little worms would be produced in the cracks, and the woad lose part of its strength. After lying for fifteen days the heaps are opened, the crust rubbed and mixed with the inside, and the matter formed into oval balls, which are pressed close and solid in wooden moulds. These are dried upon hurdles. The good balls are distingusshed by their being weighty, of an agreeable smell, and when rubbed of a violet colour within. These balls are beat into a powder, and then being moistened with water they slake and throw out a

strong fœtid smell. This process is renewed for ten or twelve days, and it is then in a condition to be used by the dyers in whose hands it becomes the base of so many shades that they have a scale by which they compose the different casts or degrees of woad, from the brightest to the deepest.

It is not wonderful that an article of such immense consequence in a country like this where the staple commodity is wool, should encourage depredators, for they are no less, to benefit their country in a sinister sense, yet unfortunately a literal one as it is generally applied, by procuring a monopoly of it. KENT and BEDFORDSHIRE have grown woad as we have seen; but the quantities were not so large as to induce them to venture at enormous imposition; this was reserved for some other places led on by LINCOLNSHIRE, where the speculators in this article found themselves in possession of the goose with the golden eggs. They were however too cunning to cut up the poor animal to get them, they contented themselves with giving it occasionally a stimulus by which this treasure was prematurely produced; but, this taking place too frequently, it got sick, and upon the administration at length of too powerful a dose it died, and all their hopes with it.

This was the progress of the business, and it will for one instance, though let me say a very powerful one, confirm all my positions on the subject of agriculture. Twenty years ago woad was fifteen pounds a ton. It continued gradually to rise till, at, about 1794 it was at twenty; from that time it rose forty shillings annually, and was sold in 1799 for thirty pounds. In the very same year it was raised to five and forty, and the reason given for this extraordinary proceeding was, that there had been a great failure of the crops, which upon an investigation turned out to be false. Upon the detection of this glaring imposition and gross fallacy it was high time for the YORKSHIRE dyers to look about them, and a meeting was had of those who live at LEEDS, WAKEFIELD, HALIFAX, HUDDERSFIELD, and some other places, which ended with a determination to form a society for growing woad.

Some difficulties of course presented themselves; but these were foreseen and properly combated. The soil of YORKSHIRE was in general unfavourable to the plan and they could not get the sort of rich old ground proper for the purpose nearer than the borders of BUCKINGHAMSHIRE, where upon about a hundred and fifty acres they have made the experiment with prodigious success, and no doubt but in time when the land is rendered fit for the purpose, woad will grow in YORKSHIRE as plentifully as any where else. The manœuvres played off to prevent the success of this laudable body were as artful as they were contemptible. They found it difficult to procure seed; and, when they had surmounted this difficulty, it was attempted to lead them on a false scent, and a pompous pamphlet was actually printed, which among other things stated that it would require eighty-eight bushels of seed to sow an acre of ground, whereas three bushels are sufficient. I copy this fact from a letter before me written by a YORKSHIRE gentleman on whose veracity you have assured me I may rely.

I could from this letter and other intelligence mention parties, it is however lamentable enough to point out facts. May every such iniquitious combination be as completely defeated. It has been said that this changing hands will enrich the dyers without benefiting the public; but even then it were better that the bees should be encouraged than the drones. I hope, however they are above any such mean consideration, and that they will always be ready, though secrets of state in dying as well as government ought not always to be betrayed, to shew that in the general estimate of their own expences, they charge the public no more than they paid themselves in the year 1794, that is to say twenty pounds a ton, and I would the more particularly recommend this, because exclusive of manifesting a proof of their disinterestedness, it would expose their enemies to the ridicule and contempt of the world*. There are

* As in consequence of diverting the woad from its original growers to the YORKSHIRE dyers themselves, it is very natural to enquire what becomes of it, and how, by way of equivalent, the members of the combination, to enhance its price, can turn it to account, it is not impossible, finding it thrown in their hands, and being to a man the great encouragers of agricultural improvement, but it may have been used among the great variety of artificial substitutes for food for the purpose of fattening sheep, to which it was sometimes formerly appropriated; but Dr. MILLER, in his Gardener's Dictionary, for many sensible reasons, severely reprobates the practice.

two other sorts of woad, and also the weld or dyer's weed, of which I have already spoken; they are, however, all of inferior quality, and are the *luteola* and *genista tinctoria*.

The plants which grow wild in YORKSHIRE are some of them curious in themselves, and have curious properties. Tender ivy leaved bell-flower, *companula cymbalaria foliis*. I never that I can recollect saw this plant; all the companulas are handsome, and the ivy leaf makes of course a pretty variety. Herb Christopher, or bane berry, *actæa*. There are three species of this plant, and the botanists consider them all as poisons. PLINY, however, with some qualification, has stoutly contested the point, and the doctrine was generally credited, till very sensibly combated by Dr. JAMES. Purple avens, herb bennet; in botany, *geum*, or *caryophilata*, stands in the list of medicinal plants; the root is the part used, which is of a binding nature, and good in fluxes. Winter, or square barley, called in the north country big, *hordeum polystichon*. This species of the barley is very hardy, and is therefore sown in preference in the mountainous parts of the county, and almost every where north.

Bird's-eye is a species of the *flos adonis*. Wall rue, or milt-waste. This plant is an *asplenium*, and nearly allied to the fern. The leaves are recommended as a pectoral, in the manner of maiden-hair, with which they have been frequently joined in apozems and infusions. They are considered as an attenuant and a gentle diuretic, and are used as a tea for breakfast. In some parts of ESSEX, where this plant is common on the walls of their churches, and on the tombs in the church-yards, the common people tell wonders of its effects in the stone. Spurge laurel, *daphne laureolo*. This is the plant in which mythology, according to the words of MILTON, fixed DAPHNE root bound that fled APOLLO. It is a *mezerion*. There are some curious cures which the laureola is said alone to perform, which keep up the idea very correctly of its junction with the goddess of chastity; its virtues being in this operation to repel impurity. Wags, however, may take the matter differently; for, as in laurels, the cherry laurel in particular, there is rather in their qualities a poisonous propensity, it might be

maintained that the operation of these cures might be only the expulsion of one virus by another.

Sunflower cistus, *cistus helianthemum*. There are twenty-four species of this, plant, and it is joined by LINNEUS to the rock rose, and indeed it is impossible to avoid it; and yet this sort is said to have very peculiar qualities, and among others a power to cure the bites of serpents. Spindle-tree, *euonymus eunopæus*. There are several sorts of this plant onward from the euonymous to the staff-tree, and kigglearia, and there has been a great deal said of the difference between the ancient euonymus and ours. The shrub in question is found common in the hedges, and if cultivated singly, would with care grow to a very large size. The branches are cut into skewers, tooth-picks, and spindles, from which latter purpose it derives its name. It is vulgarly called dog-wood. Moon wort, *osmunda lunaria*. This is the plant commonly called honesty. If one were induced to be jocular, one might say, that among other things remarked of this plant it is easily seen through, and it has found but little congenial to it in medicine.

Pellitory of the wall, *parietaria officinalis*, has long been esteemed as a cooling medicine. BEN JONSON makes ABEL DRUGGER say, that an old woman cured him with pellitory of the wall when he was sick by eating ram mutton. Meally primrose, *primula farinosa*, is of course a species of flower between the auricula and the polyanthus. Vervain, *verebna officinalis*, is very common on the sides of roads on foot paths, and in farm yards, near habitations; for, though there is scarcely any part of ENGLAND where it is not found in plenty, yet it is never seen to grow above a quarter of a mile from a house, and it is on this account called simpler's joy, because it is a sure token that a house is at hand. This fact is certainly proved, though not easy to be accounted for. Vervain was used among the ancients in their sacrifices, and supposed to contain something divine. The Romans, for the same reason, made this herb a present to their friends at the beginning of the year; great medical virtues are attributed to it, but it seems in this, as in every thing else, to have subtilty enough to deceive, but not to convince.

There are besides these a very large catalogue of plants that grows in YORKSHIRE, but as some have been mentioned already, and others grow every where else, I shall only go over the names of some of those which are most material; for, as to the *solanums*, the *convalarias*, the *fumarias*, the *gentianas*, the *veronicas*, the *gramens*, together with gromwell, pimpernel, loosestrife, dittander, cow-wheat, cat-mint, herb paris, dyer's weed, wild clary, goat's-beard, hellebore, and a prodigious long et cetera, we have had quite enough of them already; the remainder we shall hereafter meet, and to mention them therefore now would be anticipation. I shall therefore close this list with some account of liquorice, which grows more, and to better effect, at POMFRET, than at any place in the kingdom.

The liquorice root and its virtues are so very well known, that it seems totally unnecessary to explain them; but, as they are imitated, and other ingredients are substituted for them, especially in the composition called Spanish juice, it may be material to say that too much caution cannot be taken to get it genuine, because nothing in nature possesses exactly the same qualities. New green liquorice should be chosen smooth and even, about the thickness of a finger; ruddy without, yellowish within, easy to cut, and of an agreeable odour. The root, carefully dried and powdered, is of a richer and more pleasant taste than when fresh. The superior quality of the liquorice root is, that though it contains more sweetness than either sugar or honey, yet it more easily quenches thirst, and it is for this reason that GALEN prescribed it in dropsies.

The catalogue of extraordinary persons in YORKSHIRE exceeds that of extraordinary plants. I must therefore enumerate no more than a selection of them. Sir MARTIN FORBISHER, an excellent navigator and gallant sea officer, was born at DONCASTER. He undertook a voyage, partly at his own expence, and partly by the encouragement of Queen ELIZABETH, to find a north-west passage to CHINA. In his passage he discovered those streights which still bear his name; but neither in this, nor in two other voyages, though he made many discoveries, and gave names to different places at his pleasure, did he succeed in his proposed enterprize, nor indeed has any body else been so fortunate. He was commander in

one of the largest of those ships that destroyed the celebrated Spanish Armada. In his gallantry and conduct upon this occasion he was rewarded with the order of knighthood, a distinction, says a historian, at that time so much the more valuable, in as much that it was never conferred but on men of the greatest merit. He died in consequence of a wound he received at CROYZON, near BREST, where he was sent to the assistance of the brave and gallant HENRY the Fourth of FRANCE.

BRAMHALL, Archbishop of ARMAGH, was a native of PONTEFRACT. He was a man of equal merit, goodness, and perseverance, and had a principal hand in bringing the church of IRELAND to a conformity with that of ENGLAND, by persuading the former to embrace the thirty-nine articles of religion. Zeal, however, which generally risks danger, had on him its usual operation. A charge of high treason was preferred against him by some factious spirits, and had not the king interposed his authority, he would have been crushed by his enemies. He fled to the low countries to avoid the fury of CROMWELL; but, on his return to ENGLAND after the restoration, he was appointed Archbishop of ARMAGH, and Primate and Metropolitan of all IRELAND; an honour, however, which he did not long live to enjoy.

The celebrated and singular Dr. RADCLIFFE, founder of the Radclivian Library at OXFORD, was born at WAKEFIELD. His practice was immense, for it has been estimated at twenty guineas a day; and yet by his rudeness he was continually losing his best patrons. He offended Queen ANNE, when she was Princess ANNE of DENMARK, by accusing her of whims and affectation, which he said she mistook for sickness. He lost also the favour of King WILLIAM, and with it about six hundred guineas a year, by a similar conduct; for being asked what he thought of his Majesty's legs, which were much swoln, "I would not," said he, abruptly, "have your Majesty's two legs for your three kingdoms." Other stories of him are in every body's recollection; but, though he was so forbidding in his manners, he was so skilful in his profession that he amassed a prodigious fortune, great part of which he dispensed in a constant exercise of benevolence. But it is better that I should be more brief, that I may get in more names.

The great TILLOTSON, whose name speaks his virtues and his merits, was born at HALIFAX. FISHER, Bishop of ROCHESTER, beheaded by HENRY the Eighth, for refusing to acknowledge him supreme head of the church, was a native of BEVERLEY. Sir JOHN LAWSON, who signalized himself under CROMWELL and CHARLES the Second in the wars against the Dutch, was born at HULL, which was also the native place of ANDREW MARVEL, famous for his wit and satirical writings. Dr. WALTON, the celebrated and indefatigable author of the *Biblia Polygotta*, was born at that part of YORKSHIRE called CLEVELAND. SHEFFIELD, the first Earl of MULGRAVE, who received a reward for his gallant conduct against the Spaniards, was a native of YORKSHIRE. Sir THOMAS FAIRFAX, who commanded the parliamentary army against CHARLES the First, was born at a place called DENTON, near LEEDS. SHARP, Archbishop of YORK, was a native of this county; and so was Dr. GARTH, so celebrated for his admirable work the Dispensary. I shall finish with a few particulars relative to extraordinary persons in a different way.

Sir GEOFREY CLIFTON, of ALWOODLEY, near LEEDS, was famous for having surpassed HENRY the Eighth in number of wives. He had seven, and he thus distinguished them: The first, second, and third, he called honourable; the fourth, fifth, and sixth, he styled worshipful; and the seventh he named his well beloved. The instances of longevity in YORKSHIRE are very extraordinary. MARY ALLISON, of THORLBY, spun a web of linen cloth when a hundred and six years old, and lived to be a hundred and eight. In the year 1664, two persons, father and son, were summoned as witnesses on a trial at YORK assizes; the son was above a hundred years old, and the father above a hundred and thirty-nine. But the most wonderful chraacter of this description was a man, by name HRNRY JENKINS, who was born in the North Riding of YORKSHIRE, and lived to be a hundred and seventy. Two years before his death he was able to bind sheaves after the reapers. As there were no registers old enough to evidence the time of his birth, it was gathered from the following circumstance. Being asked whether he recollected the battle of FLODDEN, which he called PLOWDEN, he answered, that he was twelve years old at that time, and the account he gave of it proved that he must have then been of that age, if not older. The battle of FLODDEN was fought in 1513. I don't wish to impeach the authenticity of these enquirers, but this does not appear to me to be

good evidence. Those who asked the question considered themselves of course as judges, which distinction they could have acquired no other way than by reading accounts of this famous event. How, therefore, were they sure that he did perfect himself in his answer by the same medium. The fact, as far as it is worth an examination, is, that he lived to a most extraordinary age; others did the same; all which proves the air of YORKSHIRE is remarkably salubrious. It is certainly a most charming county, and I am sorry it is not in my power to do better justice to it.

Leicester-Place. Yours, very sincerely,

March 4, 1802. C. DIBDIN.

	Barnsley	Beverly	Boroughbridge	Doncaster	Easingwold	Guisborough	Halifax	Hull	Knaresborough	Leeds	Malton	Northallerton	Pontefract	Richmond	Rippon	Scarborough	Settle	Sheffield	Skipton	Tadcaster	Thirsk	Wakefield	Whitby	York	London
Thurs. Askrig to	78	91	44	88	46	55	54	91	42	58	65	30	70	18	32	87	24	92	32	58	41	67	71	58	247
Barnsley to		56	46	16	50	90	25	64	35	19	60	64	18	70	45	82	60	14	41	32	56	10	63	42	171
† * W. & S. Beverly to			48	56	43	65	74	8	51	58	29	62	49	76	54	26	87	76	71	40	53	58	54	30	181
† Sat. Boroughbridge to				41	12	44	40	56	7	25	26	18	32	26	7	48	47	57	32	20	12	34	53	18	207
* Sat. Doncaster					49	84	38	47	39	29	55	62	15	70	50	77	78	18	62	28	56	20	83	37	159
Frid. Easingwold to						40	54	51	19	32	18	19	38	37	17	40	56	65	40	23	10	43	39	13	209
Sat. Guisborough to							79	77	47	65	41	25	72	36	39	82	70	100	75	58	28	74	21	51	248
Sat. Halifax to								72	32	16	58	58	25	63	45	80	38	38	21	30	51	16	80	41	195
† * Tu. & S. Hull to									54	60	36	70	47	84	62	35	95	65	81	46	61	57	63	38	172
† Wed. Knaresborough to										16	37	25	27	33	10	58	42	49	27	15	19	25	68	18	202
* Tu. & S. Leeds to											42	46	15	52	26	64	41	33	25	14	38	9	70	24	192
† Sat. Malton to												35	42	53	23	22	71	73	64	28	26	51	29	18	214
† Wed. Northallerton to													50	18	20	54	45	80	50	42	9	53	46	32	225
† * Sat. Pontefract to														58	38	64	59	28	43	15	44	9	70	24	178
† * Richmond to															26	72	39	84	40	52	24	61	57	44	234
† Thurs. Rippon to																45	37	61	30	26	11	35	60	24	223
† Th. Scarborough to																	103	97	88	50	42	83	18	40	215
Tues. Settle to																		77	16	47	48	50	90	59	232
Tues. Sheffield to																			61	46	72	24	101	56	161
Sat. Skipton to																				31	43	34	83	41	217
Th. Tadcaster to																					33	24	56	10	186
† Mon. Thirsk to																						47	49	23	219
Th. Wakefield to																							79	33	183
Sat. Whitby to																								46	243
† * Tu. & Th. York to																									196

YORKSHIRE.

Table of distances in YORKSHIRE. Corporation towns governed by a Mayor and Aldermen are distinguished thus*; boroughs thus†; the market days are placed before the names of the towns. The representatives of HENDON and ALDBOROUGH are to be added, as well as those for the county, making in all thirty.

LETTER LXXIV.

CHESHIRE.

Rev. W. BINGLEY.

DEAR SIR,

THERE is but little to say of CHESHIRE. I therefore the less regret that I have seen but little of it, or that the documents I possess concerning it are not of the same interesting kind as those which relate to other places. Something worthy of attention is, however, to be related of every province, and at any rate it is my duty to speak of each in its turn.

CHESHIRE is bounded on the east by STAFFORDSHIRE and DERBYSHIRE; on the west, partly by the Irish Sea, and partly by FLINTSHIRE and DENBIGHSHIRE; on the north, by LANCASHIRE; and on the south, by SHROPSHIRE. It is about fifty miles in length, twenty in breadth, and a hundred and twelve in circumference. The north-west corner of this county shoots into the Irish Sea, forming a peninsula, called WIRRAL, which is about sixteen miles long and seven broad. On each side of the peninsula there is a creek, and into one or other of these two all the rivers in the county are received, which are the Dee, the Weaver, and the Mersey. Neither of these, however, rises in CHESHIRE; for the Dee comes out of WALES, and is the largest and longest river on the western side of the kingdom

between the Severn and the Clyde; the Weaver rises in SHROPSHIRE, and of the Mersey I have sufficiently spoken in my account of LANCASHIRE. CHESHIRE contains twelve hundreds, in which are included the city of CHESTER and twelve market towns; it has eighty-six parishes; it lies in the province of YORK and diocese of CHESTER, and sends four members to parliament.

There are a number of mineral waters in CHESHIRE, and that in particular at STOCKPORT is said to be a stronger chalybeat than the TUNBRIDGE water. There are also salt springs. That at NAMPTWICH is well known. All the salt springs lie near brooks of fresh water, and it is considered as remarkable that the water is so cold at the bottom of the pits, that the briners, as the workmen are called, cannot exist in them above half an hour at a time, unless frequently refreshed with strong liquors. It is remarkable that some of these springs afford much more water than others, and there is more salt in any given quantity drawn from the springs that yield little water, than in the same quantity from those that yield much; that the strength of the brine is generally in proportion to the paucity of the spring; and that more salt is produced from the same quantity of brine in dry weather than in wet. I can find no satisfactory explanation of these effects, for though many reasons are advanced, none appear to be established. I shall therefore leave the fact, such as I find it, with my readers.

The air of this county is generally esteemed healthy, for it is more serene than that of LANCASHIRE. The soil is in many places good. That part of it which is low and level was named by EDWARD the First the vale royal of ENGLAND, on account of its great fruitfulness in corn, and the extraordinary richness of its pastures. There is, however, much moorish boggy earth about, covered with moss, and lying uncultivated. In these bogs are buried large fir trees, which are replete with turpentine, and therefore the poor people split the wood to serve for candles; but these benefits are yielded very sparingly, the principal use of these wastes being, as in IRELAND, the peat and turf which they produce for firing. CHESHIRE, it is well known, excels in cheese; and as to other particulars, it certainly yields all the other articles of life abundantly, but not in a greater proportionable extent, or to greater perfection, than other counties.

CHESTER is a very ancient town. Its history is like a ruin, and you tumble over defaced, mutilated, and illegible fragments, without being able to ascertain a single object distinguished by order or symetry. It is almost pitiable to read the voluminous accounts of legions, bricks, altars, and flower-pots, apparent or concealed by fits and starts, like the moon on a squally night, and all to prove that it was once inhabited by the troops of GALBA, or of somebody else, with all the circumstances of cruelty and slaughter that naturally accompany such subjects. If we must go into antiquity, I had rather dip into the history of the CHESHIRE rounds, to shew that whatever their miseries were, they knew occasionally something like content.

CHESTER has a great number of public buildings. There are nine churches; one of them is the cathedral, near which are the bishop's palace, and the houses where the prebends reside, The two principal streets intersect each other at right angles, pointing in the usual way towards the four cardinal points; and on the south side of a rocky hill, partly surrounded by the river Dee, stands the CASTLE, with all its turrets, battlements, and loop-holes, which excite ideas so dear to the historian, and so revolting to the philanthropist. The PIAZZA, which almost encircles the whole town, is a very agreeable convenience, as well as the town wall, from whence, at a variety of distances, there are flights of steps which lead to the different streets, so that in rainy weather you may traverse the greatest part of the town without being wet, and in dry weather you may walk in the air without being annoyed in the streets.

As to CHESTER in other respects, it is completely inhabited upon a saving plan, every thing being regulated by the rigid principles of œconomy to make both ends meet. This is a kind of compact by general consent, and no step is taken without a previous consultation, settled nearly like the rules and orders in an assembly room, one leading character being the master of the ceremonies; a circumstance not amiss, if one could rely on the judgment of the commanding officer. The best operation of this numerous community is, for the numbers are considerable indeed at CHESTER, that they so govern the price

of all the necessaries of life, as to reduce them to a very reasonable standard; that every thing, however, may come upon its legs, what is taken off the inhabitants is laid upon strangers; and thus, though cheap living is certainly to be found at CHESTER among the settlers, visitors will not easily get out of it till they have been most exorbitantly imposed on; and, as this is in the direct road to PARKGATE and HOLYHEAD, an equivalent, according to modern politics, is found in the birds of passage for the loss sustained by nourishing those which are stationary.

It is not convenient, nor indeed very material, that I should say more of CHESHIRE botanic productions, than that they are very few in number, and they have been already, or will be hereafter, all spoken of. Being the region of tradition, no wonder it produced chroniclers. HOLLINGSHEAD is reported to have been born some where in CHESHIRE, which is only keeping pace with the nature of his own intelligence, and to prove that works of description ought in their nature to be as uncertain as possible. His Chronicles, which were first published in 1577, and afterwards in 1583, which last date was after his death, were compiled originally in concert with several other dabblers in history, and of course raked out of documents in their nature doubtful and uncertain. SPEED, a well known writer in the same way, was a native of TARRINGTON. He was first a taylor, and afterwards a map-maker. There appears to be more foundation in his Chronicles than in those of HOLLINGSHEAD; but accounts of every thing so early must necessarily stand upon questionable authority.

EGERTON, whom Queen ELIZABETH, in justice to his merit, first made her solicitor-general, then her attorney-general, and afterwards lord keeper of the great seal, and a privy counsellor, and who at length arrived to be lord high chancellor of ENGLAND, was born in CHESHIRE. Sir THOMAS ASTON, eminent for his virtues as a man, and his gallantry as a soldier, was born in CHESHIRE. The two writers named RANULP and ROGER CESTRENSIS, who wrote many particulars relative to English affairs, in the way of SPEED and HOLLINGSHEAD, were monks

of CHESTER; and PEARSON, author of the Exposition on the Apostle's Creed, was Bishop of CHESTER.

I have only now to thank you for your attention, and, wishing you success in your literary pursuits, to assure you that I am very much

Your sincere well wisher

Leicester-Place, and humble servant,

March 6, 1802. C. DIBDIN.

	Chester	Knotsford	Macclesfield	Namptwich	Parkgate	Stockport	Tarvin	London
Tues. Altringham to	31	8	14	29	43	12	26	178
Wed. & Sat. Chester to		24	43	20	12	45	6	189
Sat. Knotsford to			12	19	36	18	19	174
Mond. Macclesfield to				25	55	12	34	166
Sat. Namptwich to					33	41	15	168
Parkgate to						57	18	191
Frid. Stockport to							40	172
Tarvin to								183

CHESHIRE.

Chester only is governed by a Mayor and Aldermen, and the members are two for that city, and two for the county. The market days are placed against the towns.

LETTER LXXV.

AMUSEMENTS IN THE COUNTRY.

WILLIAM WOODFALL, Esq.

MY DEAR SIR,

I HAD once an idea of going at length into the subject of country theatres, among which those of respectable establishment, whence have emancipated so many heroes and heroines who make a trial for a night, or a season, or three years, just as they are able to tickle the taste, and hit the caprice of that strangest of all incomprehensible mixtures, a LONDON audience, are in general well conducted and make a respectable stand, when it is considered that the profession of an actor is treated with more contumely if possible in the country than in the capital.

It is easy to see that reflections a-kin to these would lead me into such remarks as might be unpleasant, and would certainly be ineffectual. I have taken up the subject very warmly, and I hope very honestly in my HISTORY OF THE STAGE. I have there also gone largely into the subject of music, English music, which, had I introduced here, I should have most pointedly and most feelingly deplored that this noble structure of national taste, and surely, however it may be ridiculed, the most endearing to the human feelings, is going very fast to decay; that there are few, very few able to repair and adorn it, and fewer still willing to

encourage the work. Labour in vain is however a disgracious and a melancholy task, I shall therefore let every thing alone that may seem to reproach the age for a pitiable and vitiated taste, and laugh at it, and with it if I can, for its folly and caprice.

In relation to country amusements, with some few exceptions, nothing is proposed by those who follow them but to kill the best friend they have in the world. In the country every thing ought to be friendly to contemplation, instead of which every thing is hostile to it. Nothing is so easy, and with the addition of unadulterated delight, as to enjoy every passing moment even with a degree of mental voluptuousness, and yet nothing is so common as to drag on the lazy hours in a vapid listlessness uninterested by those studies which are the best pleasures of the mind, and insensible to the delights which spring from a reflection on the enchanting beauties of nature.

What prodigious numbers waste, literally speaking, their whole time in the country in dressing, eating and playing at cards, and in such an eternal routine that these without a single deviation comprehends the whole of their occupations, perpetually day after day. Dressing and eating certainly cannot be dispensed with, though both might and ought to be performed in a fourth part of the time usually allotted to them; but as to cards, to which many minds are so entirely devoted, it is the most incomprehensible thing in nature. First of all, it is a complete declaration of hostilities; and, though a dozen of the most intimate friends in the world should sit down at this amusement, they could not as far as it goes entertain more rancour, indulge more envy, vent more spite, than if they were the sworn and mortal enemies, and most outrageously wished the total destruction of each other.

Again it abases the mind most abjectly; for, whether it happen or not, there are no two in company who do not suspect each other of cheating. Some have treacherous memories, others let a speck of black drop on the corner of an ace, accidentally on purpose, as they snuff the candles; others touch a brilliant ring

or a cross, to shew their strongest hand is in diamonds; others lament the death of a relation, when they want their partner to lead a spade. Of these and fifty other similar tricks and shifts do they between jest and earnest accuse one another for a whole evening together, and thus, having for six hours gone the same dull round like a horse in a mill, teazed and worried into all manner of humours by the various turns of fortune, to keep up deception and dissimulation to the last, they rise from the card-table, at which by the unanimous declaration every body has lost and yet nobody has won.

I have given the strongest possible instance that amusements in the country instead of strengthening the bond of amity and good fellowship, without an observance of which a man had better stay and be dull in LONDON, begets distaste, distrust, and all those uncomfortable consequences which I have deplored in my Letter on Retirement; not that I would discourage altogether trials of skill, and, though chess, whist, and other games of ingenuity, involve in them as much study and acute calculation as might serve for the accomplishment of many a useful science, yet it would be a pity entirely to lose them, for they are a mental acquisition, and it is becoming in the country to shew hospitality to strangers.

Before I go on to the purpose of this letter, which is to recommend an encouragement under proper regulations of the theatre, I shall merely hint that public entertainments of all descriptions ought to be performed exclusively by the professors of the art without the interference of the delitanti and the amateurs. Let people, if they must expose themselves, do it among their private friends. What are concerts in general in the country? An attorney's clerk, who can play Weideman's minuet upon the flute, joins a mercer's apprentice; who, from frequenting hops, has learnt to scrape the fiddle of one of the city waites. The clerk, become an attorney, and the apprentice a mercer, the latter, perhaps, grows to an alderman, and the former gets on to be a town-clerk. A subscription for a concert is now proposed; a room is built, where the alderman leads and the town-clerk plays solos. The plan is at length extended, till in the race-

week, at the assizes, or some other public season, whatever singer happens then to be popular is invited; an oratorio is performed, and Messrs. Remnant and Latitat quit the quality binding and red tails, to emulate, in noise at least, the festivals of the ABBEY.

During all this time, what merit is brought forward, what genius is encouraged? It is sufficient that they get a set of understrappers, the very outcasts of the liberal professions, who, by cringing and adulation, are to shew off the talents of those great men. The circumstance is certainly different at theatres, but the operation is exactly the same. The insufferable nonsense of considering the members of a theatre as unworthy to communicate with the inhabitants of a country town, is of all pitiable things the most contemptible, were it for nothing but its having operated the disappointed of their very pleasure; for what but the refuse, the riff-raff, the very shreds and patches of the theatre, would buckle to such humiliation.

The mayor of the town is the supreme guardian of provincial morals, and without his permission nothing can be accomplished. Upon this subject I have some little experience, and upon my former tour, especially as I was taken for an impostor, I had some difficulties to encounter. Upon this tour, however, with the recollection of that nobleman's name who so generously protects me in the capital, in general, permissions and town halls have been heartily at my service; not but that now, and indeed formerly, I have met with, from chief magistrates of towns, warm and spontaneous liberality; and it is not the ignorance and folly of the mayor of NOTTINGHAM, who asked if I coomed with drooms and troompets, which, by the way, I did in my last excursion, for my instrument contains both, or the insufferable and equally ignorant pride and consequence of the vice-chancellor of CAMBRIDGE, whom I shamed into a permission on purpose that I might contemptuously decline it, that can for a single moment relax my mind from an honestly grateful sense of some civilities which in this way it is my pride that I have received.

Upon this subject I am angry for others, not for myself. I know that a gentelman, whose talents are universally respected and admired, and who pays every country town a compliment that few deserve, and that all ought to be proud of, was refused a permission of this description, and I know several similar things; but, as I have no wish to take the matter up seriously, I shall mention a circumstance or two of a light and risible nature, that will set the business in a point of view in which probably it has not been yet seen, and shew that praise and censure may be as forcibly conveyed in a smile as by any graver indication of contempt.

An actor of the name of SPARKS, who I remember as one of RICH'S great favourites, and who made a respectable stand for many years at COVENT-GARDEN, arrived from IRELAND with some other lads of the sock and buskin; and, that he might lose no time, proposed to open the theatre at CHESTER for a few nights. He applied to the mayor, who said he should consult his brethren, and desired him to call for an answer on the next day. In the mean time he consulted the town clerk, who very properly said that there could not be the least harm in granting permission; "but you know," said he, "you need not consent in di-"rect terms: wink at him."

The next day SPARKS waited on the mayor with great ceremony. SPARKS was a sensible man to my knowledge, and one of those who have frequently kept the green-room in a roar. "I come, Sir," said he to the mayor, "to entreat the "honour of your worship's permission to"—wink went the mayor—"to enact, "and perform, and represent,"—wink went the mayor—"before the respectable "inhabitants of CHESTER,"—wink went the mayor. By this time, seeing this winking, SPARKS thought it was a kind of convulsive pleasure in consequence of these compliments; he was therefore determined to double the dose. "I say, "Sir," said he, "I have the honour, the delight, the inexpressible"—wink went the mayor—"felicity, to entreat the great, the insuperable, the transcen-"dant"—wink went the mayor—"the superlative"—The mayor could not stand it any longer; he took him by the shoulders, and fairly thrust him out of the

room, crying out, "Why, damn the fellow, have not I been winking at you this "half hour?"

I have already mentioned how cautiously the inhabitants of CHESTER trust themselves with extraneous pleasure, lest probably they should not get their pennyworth for their penny. When I was there formerly, a gentleman visited me privately to ascertain the nature of my entertainment. He was very importunate, and more inquisitive than I thought consistent with propriety, which at last I fairly hinted. He said he meant no harm; that there were a great number of genteel people at CHESTER, and that, if one went, significantly looking at himself, the rest would follow like so many sheep. I had by this time been completely tired, and, with more pettishness perhaps than wit, quickly answered him, "I understand you, Sir; the inhabitants of CHESTER are a flock of sheep, of "which flock you are the bell weather." I need not say, that after venturing this repartee, imprudently enough perhaps, I was thinly attended.

A very large volume might be written from whimsical facts, to prove that none but the very lowest tribe of actors exhibit in inferior towns, and that this is entirely owing to the humiliation sustained by performers of merit and respectability, who disdain to be treated with indignity by those, compared to whom, if talent and information are worthy to be esteemed, they have a right to a superior rank in society. I shall attempt, therefore, nothing more than to enforce an attention to this point by a few strong remarks, though I am ready to confess that I have very little expectation of atchieving conviction by reasonable persuasion. Previous to this task, I cannot refrain from relating an anecdote, which I shall accompany with a *fac simile,* both furnished by my friend Dr. CRUWYS when I was last in DEVONSHIRE.

My friend CRUWYS, being a magistrate and lord of his own manor, was applied to by some miserable strolling actors for permission to perform in one of his barns. He is the man in the world to be civil to any one upon such an occasion, besides I know nobody, as far as it could be done with propriety, who would en-

joy the whim and humour that must naturally grow out of an adventure like this. The place where these poor devils performed was called PIXAY-POOL BARN, the derivation of which is full as curious, and perhaps as necessary, as any of those circumstances relative to great towns and cities. The place where the barn stands had formerly been a kind of quagmire, where had been seen, for so hundreds were ready to testify, Will-o'-th'-wisps, Jack-o'-lanterns, and various goblins and frightful objects, all which, in the old DEVONSHIRE dialect, are called pixays. Struck with this intelligence, the heroes and heroines of the barn availed themselves of the circumstance, and got up pantomimes, shades, concave mirrors, magic lanterns, and all the wonderful effects which have so astonished and improved the metropolis, under the title of Phantasmagoria, Spectreology, and the rest of it.

The clodpoles, however, though to a man good wrestlers and cudgel players, not having the courage, imbibed from modern novels, of the young ladies in LONDON, instead of crowding the theatre, could not be upon any account induced to go near it. The actors, therefore, at the suggestion of somebody or other, perhaps my friend, turned their thoughts to plays and farces, and a song between the acts. The following bill, an exact transcript of that which was delivered, for they could not afford to have bills printed, the original of which Dr. CRUWYS furnished me with, and which is now in my possession, will serve to shew the wretched state of those ALEXANDERS and STATIRAS.*

* It is wonderful what an infatuation there is in the unfortunate devils to be merry and miserable, and how many stage-struck idiots they train after them. One of the ragotins who had run away from his friends, and got among a most low and miserable set of strollers; a relation, after a time, discovered him just as he was going on the stage in KING RICHARD; and, on reading him a pretty severe lecture on his folly and disobedience, received an answer suitable to all the ridiculous consequence and assumed pomp of a mock monarch. To which he answered—' these are ' fine lofty words, but 'tis a great pity, Mr. KING RICHARD, that you could not afford to buy a better pair of ' shoes.' The actor looking at his toes, which were staring him in the face—without losing his vivacity—cried out, " shoes!—Oh damme, shoes are things we KINGS don't STAND UPON."

Theatre Crunoys Morchard

On Friday Evening July 18 1794
Will be performed a Tragedy called
Jane Shore

A Song called
The Murderers by Mr Davies
With a Musical Farce called
The Poor Soldier

Front Seats 1/ Back Seats 6
To begin at half past 7 o'C

This jovial, though miserable crew, began now to do a little better; but at length, after a few hares had been wired by the ROMEOS, and the young hicks of squires in the neighbourhood had grown tired of paying attention to the JULIETS, finding themselves in a most deplorable state, and embracing the offer of a recruiting serjeant, who, perhaps, again at somebody's suggestion, came with his train to see the Recruiting Officer, they struck up a general bargain, and, marching off to the sound of the drum, Captain PLUME, Serjeant KITE, and all the men, went for soldiers, and the women carried their knapsacks.

Suppose we were to come to a composition on this subject; and, as it will not be very easy to deny that a repetition of the works of our best dramatic authors would be full as improving as entertaining, and even as moral as the conversation of morning victors, coffee-house hunters, and tea-drinkers; suppose, as the first step to an acquaintance with a rational mode of passing their time, country residents were to consider members of the theatre as beings at least upon a footing with dancing-masters, music-masters, and language-masters; not that I would advise the same freedom to be given to them in which it is customary to indulge the latter mentioned gentlemen, who, when there are certain points to be carried, are generally masters of the house; I would only have them treated with the respect to which all strangers are entitled, and as the drift of their visit is to amuse and instruct, and not to inveigle and betray, let it candidly be allowed in particular that they have as fair a title to consideration as three-fourths of the military tribe, the consequence of whose temporary residence in country towns never fails to be more severely felt than all the imposition of the worst set of actors, even those who figured away in the barn of my friend CRUWYS, who had, by the bye, no mean ambition, for many of the military at whom I have hinted have, I have no doubt, often cast a wishful look at a parson's barn.

To be more serious. I would lay out to encourage a decent and respectable set of dramatic performers, and no others should on any account be admitted into town. They should have a proper subscription, or some other insurance, as an appropriate remuneration for their services; for services they are, and what either more or less are the exactions of all public men, be their place of exhibi-

tion the pulpit, or the bar, or the hustings, or indeed any of those theatres whence they disseminate their various knowledge for the instruction and amusement of the public? It will be objected to this that actors taken by this description are difficult to be found. Not at all. There are several theatres in the country, distinguished by the appellation Theatre-Royal, where genuine merit is often cherished; and as a proof of this, many of those who are now in LONDON considered as capital actors and actresses, have emancipated from them. Were these theatres to have a collateral encouragement, in the nature of that I have described above, it would be worth while to enlarge the plan, so as that they should be so many marts, from whence would be diffused theatrical excellence in proportion to the price the different country towns might be willing to give. Let these detachments from the different head quarters only be encouraged, and let all others be considered, with all my heart, as rogues and vagabonds.

In this case, country actors and actresses would have a certain income; it would be impossible to withhold a due respect to their profession; they would themselves assume a more reputable consequence, and the compact would be kept on both sides with a degreee of pleasure and propriety equally honourable. The next thing would be how to pay the expences of such an undertaking. If it were proposed to be done by a voluntary subscription, it would all fall through. I would therefore have a kind of tax upon other amusements, in order to insure a pleasure of a more valuable kind. Suppose all the winnings at cards were to be given up for a month, or indeed at any game of chance; or if gentlemen should take a fancy to walk for wagers, or draw whiskies, or box, or fashionably amuse themselves in any other kind of way, a given portion of the stakes should be appropriated to swell this fund; the whole to be paid into the hands of a country banker, who should be obliged to subscribe liberally, by way of discount, for the advantage of receiving in money and disbursing in paper.

There are various other modes of raising a proper bank which will easily suggest themselves. All I want is to establish a due consideration to those who are endowed by nature with gifts calculated to amuse and instruct us, and that out of wantonness, just as young misses pinch the ears of kittens, and squeeze

butterflies to death out of kindness, and young gentlemen torture cock-chafers, or tame magpies by way teaching them to hop, persons of this description should not be considered as mere puppets, or at least beings born to be kicked about at the caprice of those who happen to be placed adventitiously in an independent situation, owing, perhaps, to the industry, or avarice, or cunning, of an uncle, or a grandfather, or a maiden aunt.

Let this be reformed altogether; let the world be disposed to enjoy rational pleasure; let merit have a fair trial; let impostors of all descriptions be driven from society; and in particular, when the different amusements of the country, which I merely wish to abridge, not eradicate, rise in the stomach, retaliate, or reproach, I would advise a course of wit, humour, and morality, prescribed from the stage by some practitioners of merit, upon the principle that brandy is Latin for fish, or that cheese is advised to reconcile crudities.

Yours, my dear sir,

Leicester-Place, very truly,

March 6, 1802. C. DIBDIN.

LETTER LXXVI.

SHROPSHIRE.

Rev. W. PALMER.

MY DEAR SIR,

As you have been a good deal in WALES and on its borders, and as I well know from your warmth and kindness you wish well to me and to every thing I undertake, I shall beg your attention to those observations which I may find it necessary to make in SHROPSHIRE and some of its neighbouring counties, which I visited certainly upon different occasions, but always with an eye to business as well as pleasure, or rather to combine both, for what sort of churlish pleasure must that be which does not receive its best relish from being communicated.

You have commended me, and I am proud of the circumstance, for having abstained from going minutely into the rust of antiquity, and rather contented myself with such points as are best exposed to rational conviction, than confounded my readers and myself by losing and bewildering my subject in the labyrinths of ancient conjecture. I shall not therefore on the present subject of SHROPSHIRE write a dissertation to prove whether at the time of the Romans it was inhabited by the Cornavii, whether in the time of the Saxons it was a district of the kingdom of MERCIA; whether the famous Roman military way enters

SHROPSHIRE from STAFFORDSHIRE, or any other of those circumstances, finishing with the treachery of the queen of the Brigantes to CARACTACUS, his noble conduct in battle, and his bold and animated speech to the Roman Emperor. I shall only say that, as SHROPSHIRE, being a frontier county between ENGLAND and WALES, and therefore secured as we are told by no fewer than thirty-two castles, besides fortified towns, was certainly at some of those early periods the scene of great slaughter and cruelty, we have to deplore that it has too largely contributed to fill up the catalogue of woes, so revolting to humanity, which have been but too faithfully recorded in the annals of this country.

SHROPSHIRE is bounded on the east by STAFFORDSHIRE; on the south by HEREFORDSHIRE, WORCESTERSHIRE, and a small part of RADNORSHIRE; on the west by MONTGOMERYSHIRE and DENBIGHSHIRE, and on the north by part of FLINTSHIRE and CHESHIRE. It extends upwards of forty miles from north to south; thirty-five in breadth from east to west, and is about a hundred and sixty miles in circumference. It is divided into fifteen hundreds, and contains fifteen market-towns, but has no city; it is seated in the province of CANTERBURY, and under the direction partly of the Bishop of HEREFORD, and partly of the Bishop of LITCHFIELD and COVENTRY, and it sends twelve members to parliament.

The principal rivers are the Severn, the Temd, and the Colun, or Clun. The Severn is esteemed the second river in ENGLAND. It rises in PLIMLIMMON-HILLS in MONTGOMERYSHIRE, from thence rushing down with a swift current, and being joined by many smaller torrents, it becomes a large body. It is navigable near WELCHPOOL, where the river Vernew joins it with a stream little inferior to its own. It then proceeds forward towards SHREWSBURY receives the Torn and waters all the north of SHROPSHIRE. Here being pent up between two steep and lofty hills it becomes rapid; in which state it takes its direction to BRIDGENORTH and BEWDLEY, the channel being frequently graced with woody hills and rocky cliffs, which afford a great variety of beautiful effects. Afterwards it glides into WORCESTERSHIRE, visits WORCESTER, and receives the Temd regularly gathering strength and body as it flows, and is again more considerably augmented by the Avon; which, bending its course from EVESHAM, PERSHORE and STRATFORD, forms a

junction with it at TEWKSBURY, it then pursues its course to GLOUCESTER, and about fifty miles below that city falls into the Bristol channel.

The Temd rises in the north part of RADNORSHIRE, separates SHROPSHIRE from that county, then runs to the eastward and divides it from HEREFORDSHIRE and WORCESTERSHIRE, and falls into the Severn near WORCESTER. The Clun rises near BISHOP'S CASTLE in SHROPSHIRE, and discharges itself into the Temd near LUDLOW. As to mineral waters there is an aperient spring at a village called MORETON; a pitchy spring at a place called PITCHFORD, and there is a spring at BROSELY which takes fire exactly in the manner of that near WIGAN, in LANCASHIRE, which I have already particularly explained. There are other curiosities, and among them a milky water found near SHERRIF HALES, among the iron mines, which is however neither more nor less than that which I have described in my account of STAFFORDSHIRE.

There are mines of copper, lead and iron in SHROPSHIRE, and many coal pits, one of which was discovered not long ago to contain a stratum of a bituminous quality, and indeed is the very place where it is well known tar was extracted from coal; but it has excited very much my wonder that we now hear so little of the tar spring in COALBROOK DALE, of which the pitchy spring spoken of above gives us some hint. I saw this tar spring fourteen years ago, and shall now set down my observations on it made at that time, while my imagination was yet warm with this very extraordinary phœnomenon.

I went in company with a gentleman into the mouth of a bricked arch-way, which reached three-hundred yards; and, when we had got about thirty yards we began to see the tar ooze from the crannies in the rock. It must be understood that from the top of the rock a pit had been sunk, which went to such an immense depth that it would have been very expensive and indeed almost impracticable to work it. Finding, however, the coals of an admirable quality, it was thought worth while to form the arch-way above described at the foot of the mountain, and as near as possible to the Severn, that the coal might be drawn out in carriages, which mode of getting at them, instead of the usual way, it was

thought would be so much more expeditious and convenient as to make a saving in a short time equal to the expence of having formed the arch-way. In the prosecution of this scheme, the tar unexpectedly made its appearance, at first oozing as we had seen it, and afterwards pouring in a large body which fairly flowed into the Severn. The discovery was made known, and the course of the tar as soon as possible diverted by means of iron pipes, which I assure you were as far as my recollection guides me nearly as large as those which convey the water from the New River in LONDON. Large pits were immediately dug, and immense cauldrons sunk. In these the tar was boiled and became pitch. When I saw the place there were three springs, one of which emitted an astonishing quantity. The first was at that time nearly dried up, and this induced the workmen to believe that the whole would one day cease, which perhaps as we hear nothing about the circumstance now has long been the case. The tar was about the consistence of treacle and beautifully pellucid. I have no doubt but it is the dregs of this very tar which at the distance of seven miles they extract from the coal.

It is very extraordinary that at WOLVERHAMPTON they did not at that time believe this fact, and I take the reason to be that the tar was privately contracted for. I knew a chymist at SHEFFIELD who sold an estate to purchase large quantities of it. He assured me it had the strongest similitude of any thing he ever saw or read of to the famous black pitch used by the Egyptians for embalming. It was remarkably free from impurity, it was as bituminous as asphaltum, and had an agreeable odour not unlike benjamin.

Entering SHROPSHIRE from LEOMINSTER, the approach to LUDLOW is uncommonly beautiful. It is situated at the confluence of the Temd and the Corve, and stands upon a hill that commands a prospect of the adjacent country, except towards the west where the view is intercepted by lofty eminences. It is a clean neat well built town, and a great number of persons of rank and fortune reside there and in its vicinity. The long history of the castle, the church, and other public objects in this town with all the antiquated particulars relative to them, I must consign to the pen of some historian fonder than I am of picking up vestiges and relicks, I have no objection however to notice that MILTON'S Masque

of Comus was originally performed in this castle, and that BUTLER wrote the first part of Hudibras there, two circumstances infinitely more to its honour than all the fine things it ever did or ever was intended to atchieve.

I am now following the track of my route fourteen years ago, at which time I passed over the clay hills, from which an immense space of country is stretched out before you. We reached CLEOBURY, an inconsiderable town, and arrived at that strange savage place BRIDGENORTH, the very aspect of which town and its cork-screw approach inspires a kind of forbidding unsociableness. It seems as if you expected a command to sound the bugle at its gates like the ceremony of entering a castle in feudal times. It was from this place, where I remember in my former tour I complain of eating musty chickens and tainted ham, that I went to see COALBROOK DALE. I found the country beautifully picturesque, and if I could have satisfied my hunger by the food I took in at my eyes, I should have had no no reason to complain.

It was our intention I remember to stay all night, but this was impossible, for the day was insufferably hot, and the prodigious piles of coal burning to coke, the furnaces, the forges, and other tremendous objects emitting fire and smoke to an immense extent, together with the intolerable stench of the sulphur, approached very nearly to an idea of being placed in an air-pump. We were therefore glad enough to get away and sleep at SHEFNAL. By this time it was evening, and the effect produced in Plate IX, introduced in the First Volume, for which a reason will be given at the end of the work, is a pretty faithful portraiture of the surrounding scenery.

Affected as we were with the thick atmosphere, if it may be called so, in this strange region, we nevertheless noted some of its most remarkable objects, and among them of course the iron bridge which was then a great curiosity to me, as I had at that time never seen that at BRIDGEWATER, or the other at SUNDERLAND. I think this is the most beautiful of the three; for though it seems like net-work wrought in iron, it will apparently last uninjured for ages. COALBROOK-DALE wants nothing but Cerberus to give you an idea of the heathen hell. The

Severn may pass for the Styx, with this difference, that CHARON, turned turnpike-man, ushers you over the bridge instead of rowing in his crazy boat; the men and women might easily be mistaken for devils and furies, and the entrance of any one of those blazing caverns, where they polish the cylinders, for TARTARUS; and, really, if an atheist, who had never heard of COLEBROOK DALE, could be transported there in a dream, and left to awake at the mouth of one of those furnaces, surrounded on all sides by such a number of infernal objects, though he had been all his life the most profligate unbeliever that ever added blasphemy to incredulity, he would infallibly tremble at the just judgment that in imagination would appear to await him.

Having at that time left SHEFNAL for WOLVERHAMPTON, I shall now merely trace my steps from WREXHAM in DENBIGHSHIRE, from which place I arrived first at ELLESMERE, and afterwards at SHREWSBURY, on the ninth of August. This town, for it has disdained to become a city, for which the inhabitants have been signalized with the title of proud Salopians, is a flourishing and very populous place, and most plentifully stored with all the necessaries and luxuries of life. It is surrounded by the Severn on every side but the north, and thus is shaped something like a horse-shoe. At the time I was there a prodigious number of labourers, I should suppose more than two hundred, were waiting before the window of my lodging to be hired to get in the harvest, which was every where abundant to astoishment. A small print will in this place give some faint idea of their characters.

The castle, the churches, schools, hospitals, shire-hall, and other public buildings; the twelve trading companies, the quarry, and other delightful walks, which so spiritedly ornament and lend consequence to this truly respectable town, have from me a large portion of admiration, and should be here particularly described, were it not that, however I may agree with all that is said and known of them, their various histories, which, though curious and entertaining, would far exceed the space I have it in my power to allot to them, I am compelled to take my leave of this place with assuring the public, and particularly travellers, that if the attractions to their fancy are an opulent and hospitable town, a rich and

delightful country, and an elegant and respectable neighbourhood, they cannot gratify their expectations to greater perfection than in this region.

I the less regret that I cannot with propriety describe the LEASOWES, SHENSTONE'S beautiful retreat, at HALES-OWEN, as every edition of his works contains an account of it. I have many times in my life visited this charming place, and readily subscribe to every thing said of it even by its most enthusiastic admirers. It would not be the style of a tour were I to neglect some notice of BOSCOBEL-HOUSE, on the borders of STAFFORDSHIRE, where the remains of that oak are yet to be seen which concealed CHARLES the Second after the battle of WORCESTER. The oak was enclosed by a wall to preserve it; but many travellers, out of curiosity to obtain parts of its relicks, have so mutilated it that there is nothing of it remaining but a part of the trunk. Close by its side, however, has sprung a young oak, that grew from one of its acorns. Over the door of the enclosure is an inscription, containing a mixture of loyalty and superstition, to the following effect:

"BAZIL and JANE FITZHERBERT recommend to posterity this most fortunate "tree, which the all gracious and all mighty, by whom kings reign, ordained "here to grow, to be the asylum of the most potent prince, King CHARLES the "Second, and have begirt it with a wall, as well in perpetual remembrance of so "great an event, as a testimony of their firm allegiance to kings. The oak be- "loved by JOVE." About five miles from SHREWSBURY, in the way to LUDLOW, I got a beautiful view of the Wrekin. The effect will be inserted here. From LUDLOW I arrived at WORCESTER, and shall therefore close this letter, first having spoken of the botanical productions in SHROPSHIRE, and some of its celebrated characters.

Ploughman's spikenard, *baccharis*, though seldom used, is said to be very efficacious in bruises, contusions, ruptures and inward wounds, pains in the side, and difficulty of breathing. Baccharis was also the name of a sweet ointment among the ancients, in which it was used as a principal ingredient. Smallage is species of the *opium*. It is supposed to have some of the ill qualities of the hemlock. It is nevertheless one of the five openers of the shops. It is grateful and

detergent; it dislodges gravel, and is recommended in disorders of the breast, to promote expectoration. It has been mentioned as a radical cure for the king's evil; but this, says an author, very gravely, wants proof.

Butter wort, *pinquicula*, is a trifling plant, of which there are four species. Tutsan, or park leaves; this is said to be a clymenum, but I suspect it to be a St. John's wort; the subject, however, is not worth a dispute. Of the clymenum there are four species. The remainder of the plants common in SHROPSHIRE, but which I have chiefly already described, are hare's-tail rush, quick-in-hand, the lesser wild rosemary, dog mercury, spleenwort, lady's mantle, mountain hawkweed, golden rod, nettle hemp, black mullen, wild rocket, climbing fumitory, maiden pinks, marsh St. Peter's wort, meadow saffron, marsh hellebore, blackberried heath, quickentree, red worts or cranberries, the barberry bush, and the raspberry bush.

Sir THOMAS ADAM, Lord Mayor of LONDON, and a man of great eminence in the seventeenth century, was born at WEM in SHROPSHIRE. He adhered very honourably to the cause of CHARLES the First, and the whole of his conduct was that of a good man and a loyal subject; but the most prominent trait in his character was his causing to be printed, at his own expence, the Persian Gospels, and transmitting them into the eastern world, which he emphatically called throwing a stone at the head of MAHOMET. WHICHCOTE was an eminent divine of the seventeenth century. His name was of a piece with his conduct, for he managed so well, that though he apparently sided with the enemies of CHARLES the First, he continued to be favoured at the restoration; and so evenly did he keep his dish, that he never lost any thing of his reputation in the world's opinion even to his death, for his funeral sermon was preached by Archbishop TILLOTSON. HIDE, whose profound learning is not only evident in his own works, but in the assistance he rendered WALTON in preparing his edition of the Polyglot Bible, was born at BILLINGSLEY, near BRIDGENORTH.

WYCHERLY was born at CLEVE. His wit, his gallantry, his distresses, and his excentricities, are so well known, that it is unnecessary to go into all these va-

rious qualities out of which he formed a species of happiness peculiar to himself. Lord LANDSDOWNE honoured the memory of WYCHERLY with a liberal and ingenious panegyric; but his wit, which has been pretty well retailed in bits and scraps by other authors, will serve him as his best monument. The celebrated BENBOW was a native of SHROPHSIRE. He was a singular as well as a gallant character, as the circumstance of pickling the moors' heads to preserve them for the King of SPAIN, and his greatly noble conduct when, with two other ships, for he was deserted by the rest of the fleet, for which cowardice two captains were shot, he sustained a battle for four days with a whole French squadron, in which he lost his leg, will sufficiently prove.

BRAY, a learned divine, who established parochial libraries in most of the colonies of AMERICA, and various parts of ENGLAND, and to follow up this plan, wrote his *Bibliotheca Parochialis*, and to whose zealous endeavours it was owing that the society for the propagation of the gospel in foreign parts was instituted, was born at MARTON. Sir JOHN TALBOT, first Earl of SHREWSBURY, whose name was terrible to the French, but who was killed by a cannon shot before CHATILLON, was born and lies buried at WHITCHURCH; where was also born WHALOCK, famous for his skill in the oriental languages. Sir CLEMENT EDMONDS was a native of SHAWARDINE. He was eminent for his extensive knowledge in the arts and sciences, and he published CÆSAR'S Commentaries. SHENSTONE, whose history, written by DODSLEY, is equally a tribute to the friendship of the biographer and the celebrity of his theme, was born near HALES-OWEN. The excellence of his heart, and the elegance of his genius, will be admired as long as readers shall love beauty and morality; and, though his poetical works can never be placed in a first class, yet will they never cease to amuse the fancy and amend the heart.

With the famous THOMAS PARR, who was born in SHROPSHIRE, and who lived to be a hundred and fifty, I take my leave of that county. In my next I shall beg your attention to a concise account of HEREFORDSHIRE.

Yours very truly,

Leicester-Place,

C. DIBDIN.

March 8, 1802.

SHROPSHIRE.

Table of Distances in SHROPSHIRE. SHREWSBURY only is governed by a Mayor and Aldermen. The members are two for the county, and two each for SHREWSBURY, BRIDGENORTH, BISHOP'S CASTLE, WENLOCK, and LUDLOW.

	Clebury	Drayton	Ludlow	Oswestry	Shrewsbury	Wellington	Wenlock	Whitchurch	London
Sat. Bridgenorth to	14	40	23	37	21	14	9	41	140
Thurs. Cleobury to		50	12	49	33	28	22	53	138
Wed. Drayton to			38	35	19	23	31	18	157
Mond. Ludlow to				45	29	33	26	49	144
Wed. Oswestry to					16	27	28	16	180
W. & F. Shrewsbury to						11	13	20	162
Wellington to							14	21	142
Mond. Wenlock to								32	148
Frid. Whitchurch to									159

LETTER LXXVII.

HEREFORDSHIRE.

Rev. W. PALMER.

MY DEAR SIR,

An enquiry into the antiquity of counties and cities puts me in mind of the conversation between the philosopher and the savage. The first pretends to know every thing, and the other does not pretend to know any thing. "This world," says the philosopher, "is held up by the great ser-"pent." "Really!" says the savage, "and pray what holds up the great ser-"pent?" "You are very importunate," says the philosopher; "why, the "great griffin to be sure." "Oh, oh," says the savage, "that is admirable! "but pray what holds up the great griffin?" "You are a stupid inquisitive "fellow," says the philosopher, "and I shall not answer any more of your im-"pertinent questions."

In this very manner do those who have thought it worth their while to go into the business of the wars of the Silures and the capture of CARACTACUS, who, in the History of YORKSHIRE is called CATARACTUS, and here CARATACUS, for these fanciful gentlemen do any thing to serve their purpose, who talk of its having been annexed to the dominions of a king of Mercia, and that OFFA seperated it from WALES by a ditch, and that GRIFFIN, king of SOUTH WALES made a resolute

stand against the Normans, who, however, completely subdued him, and then finish their elaborate and almost inexplicable account by saying that the county is called HEREFORDSHIRE, and that it takes its name from the city of HEREFORD.

For my own part I know it is a most delightful county, and that I have seen the greatest part of it with infinite pleasure. It is situated charmingly, for it is bounded on the north by SHROPSHIRE, on the east by WORCESTERSHIRE and GLOUCESTERSHIRE, on the south by GLOUCESTERSHIRE and MONMOUTHSHIRE, and on the west by the Welch counties of BRECKNOCKSHIRE and RADNORSHIRE. It is somewhat of a circular form, and extends about thirty-five miles from north to south, thirty in breadth from east to west, and it is about a hundred and eight miles in circumference. HEREFORD, which stands nearly in the center of the county, is a hundred and thirty miles north west of LONDON. This county contains eleven hundreds, consisting of one city and seven market towns. It is in the province of CANTERBURY and diocese of HEREFORD, and sends eight members to parliament.

The Wye, the Monow, and the Lug, are the principal rivers in HEREFORDSHIRE. The Wye I shall describe in my account of GLOUCESTERSHIRE. The Monow has its source in a chain of mountains called HATTEREL HILLS, which on the south-west divides this county from RADNORSHIRE, then running south-east it seperates HEREFORDSHIRE from MONMOUTHSHIRE; and, after it has received several smaller streams it falls into the Wye at MONMOUTH. The Lug rises in the mountains which are situated in the north-east part of RADNORSHIRE; and, meandering eastward through HEREFORDSHIRE to LEOMINSTER, it turns south-east, after which, being joined by some smaller rivers, it falls into the Wye near HEREFORD. The Wye and the Lug are made navigable by act of parliament, and are of great service to the country round by conveying away the cyder and bringing foreign merchandize from BRISTOL. The less considerable rivers are the Frome, the Loden, the Dare, the Arrow, and the Wedel. The different springs in this county are said to cure sore eyes, cancers, and clear the skin from freckles.

The air of HEREFORDSHIRE is said to be very healthy, a n as a proof of it they tell a story of a gentleman named HOSKINS, who entertained JAMES the

First, and procured ten old men and women to dance before him whose ages amounted to more than a thousand years. The soil of this county is wonderfully fertile, which I have myself noticed with admiration. The wheat is of a very superior quality, and the barley makes excellent malt. It is also well wooded; and the apples grow in such abundance and afford such quantities of cyder that it has been some times necessary to save it in clay pits till proper vessels could be procured to contain it, and in plentiful seasons nothing is more common than to exchange the quantity of cyder sufficient to fill a hogshead for an empty barrel. The HEREFORDSHIRE bacon is very celebrated, and we are told that the hog's flesh has a redness and a fine mellow flavour from feeding on the windfalls.

Unless I were to go into the ancient history of HEREFORDSHIRE, and elate all the uncertain particulars which are related of those wars in which it certainly has been involved in consequence of its situation as the barrier between ENGLAND and WALES, there really is very little more to say of it than that its fruits are proportionably partitioned between the husbandmen, the clergy and the lawyers, which appear to be the prominent characters; for, though flax, and wool, are sold at HEREFORD, and LEOMINSTER, there is no considerable manufacture in the county; they appear, however, to be a happy and industrious race, and sufficiently wealthy to be contented with what remains after the parson has taken his tythes, and the lawyer his fees. The gentlemen of large and independant fortunes, of which description there are many, are unaffectedly hospitable and beneficent; but it is remarkable that those who have wormed themselves into life by shrewdness, calculation, and mere business, are exactly the reverse.

HEREFORD is of all dull places the dullest I ever saw, and in whatever can be gathered of it we read only of what it has been, without a possibility of finding any thing worth attention as to what it is, and this is not only common to HEREFORD but to the whole county. There does not appear, however, to be the smallest appearance of poverty, and perhaps they are wiser in improving those acquisitions which Providence has sent them for present enjoyment, than if they

were to draw for happiness upon posterity. I find no botanic productions peculiar to this county.

As for celebrated persons, ROSAMOND CLIFFORD, concubine to HENRY the Second, whose story has been printed in so many halfpenny ballads, was born at CLIFFORD CASTLE. The great Cardinal EATON was a native of EATON BISHOPS. Sir JOHN OLDCASTLE, who for abetting the Lollards was hanged and burnt, was a native of HEREFORDSHIRE. Lord CARPENTER, who served with splendid reputation in Queen ANNE's wars, who obliged the rebels at PRESTON in 1715 to surrender at discretion, and performed other valiant actions with which the world is well acquainted was born at PITCHER OCULL in this county. The brave and unfortunate Earl of ESSEX whose history every body so well knows was born at NETHERWOOD, and with him I finish this brief account of HEREFORDSHIRE.

Yours, my dear sir,

Leicester-Place, very truly,

March 6, 1802. C. DIBDIN.

HEREFORDSHIRE.

	Hereford	Ledbury	Leominster	Pembridge	Ross	Weobly	Wigmore	London
Tues. Bromyard to	16	14	12	22	27	28	25	127
† Sat. Hereford to		16	13	15	14	12	25	136
Tues. Ledbury to			26	31	13	28	39	122
† Frid. Leominster to				10	28	14	12	137
Pembridge to					29	7	15	152
Thurs. Ross to						25	39	122
† Thurs. Weobly to							22	148
Wigmore to								149

Table of Distances in HEREFORDSHIRE. Boroughs are thus marked † ; It has no corporation town governed by a Mayor and Aldermen, except HEREFORD. The two members for the county are not included.

LETTER LXXVIII.

MONMOUTHSHIRE.

Rev. W. PALMER.

MY DEAR SIR,

THE counties on the borders of WALES, which are now rather vestiges than places, rather monuments of memorable atchievements than scenes of present action, though they may be contemplated with sober pleasure and grateful veneration, have nothing, or at least very little of attraction, as objects that make up the general bustle of life. Upon this principle we visit MONMOUTHSHIRE as we would an old sedate friend, whose mind is stored with intelligence full of legendary treasure, and from whom we retire with a mind improved and a heart delighted.

MONMOUTHSHIRE was formerly a Welch county, and I remember upon asking a Welch waiter at MONMOUTH, whether we were not then in WALES? he replied, "Why, to be sure it is WAALES, but it is not Welch WAALES." This county is bounded on the north by HEREFORDSHIRE, on the east by GLOUCESTERSHIRE and part of the Severn, on the west by the counties of BRECKNOCK and GLAMORGAN, and on the south by the Bristol Channel and the mouth of the Severn. It is about twenty-nine miles in length from north to south, twenty in breadth from east to west, and eighty miles in circumference. It is divided into six hundreds, and

contains seven market-towns; it is in the province of CANTERBURY and diocese of LANDAFF, and sends three members to parliament.

Therivers are the Severn, the Wye, the Mynow, the Rumney, the Esk, and the Ebwith. The Severn I have already traced in my account of SHROPSHIRE, and the Wye will come hereafter. The Mynow rises in BRECKNOCKSHIRE, and falls into the Wye at MONMOUTH. I cannot be persuaded but that the Mynow and the Monow, spoken of in the last letter, are the same river. All authors report to the contrary, but their reasoning is not supported by a single feasible argument. The Rumney rises in BRECKNOCKSHIRE, and running south-east, divides MONMOUTHSHIRE from GLOUCESTERSHIRE, and falls into the Bristol Channel. The Usk also rises in BRECKNOCKSHIRE, and running south-east, divides MONMOUTHSHIRE into two almost equal parts, and then falls into the Bristol Channel near NEWPORT. The Ebwith rises in the north-east part of the county; and, after receiving the Stroway, proceeds south-east, and falls into the Bristol Channel near the mouth of the Usk.

MONMOUTHSHIRE appears to me to be more fertile than HEREFORDSHIRE, though perhaps not so productive; which is by no means a solecism, for the productions of MONMOUTHSHIRE have most for the eye, those of HEREFORDSHIRE have most for the appetite. The prospects on the Wye are deliciously beautiful, and had I visited them upon this occasion, some of them would certainly have had a place in this work. There is very little to say of this county, especially as I am under no promise to explore ruins or analyze the rust of antiquity. It might, however, be worked into something interesting, if one were possessed of materials furnished by a long residence there; for the manners of the people appear to me sincere and impressive, the gentry are open and hospitable, and perhaps they are to be envied that they make it the purpose and business of their lives to diffuse content round a small circle, rather than risk the care and turbulence attendant on an extensive commerce with the world.

As to botanic productions in MONMOUTHSHIRE, there are none of which I have not spoken or shall not speak; and, as to remarkable characters, except GEOFREY

of MONMOUTH, whose writings, some authors say unjustly, are considered as mere fables; HENRY the Fifth, of whom it is unnecessary to do more than mention the name; HERBERT, so celebrated for his fidelity to CHARLES the First; and ABERGAVENY, who distinguished himself so gallantly against the Cornish men on BLACKHEATH, I find very few that can be with propriety introduced into my brief and circumscribed narration.

Yours, my dear Sir,

Leicester-Place, very sincerely,

March 8, 1802. C. DIBDIN.

	Caerleon	Chepstow	Monmouth	Newport	Pontypool	Usk	London
Tues. Abergaveny to	17	25	16	18	10	9	146
Thurs. Caerleon to		40	25	3	11	8	153
Sat. Chepstow to			15	15	20	15	132
Sat. Monmouth to				24	14	10	130
Sat. Newport to					14	11	148
Sat. Pontypool to						5	151
Mond. Usk to							145

MONMOUTHSHIRE.

MONMOUTH is governed by a Mayor and Aldermen. The members of parliament are two for the county and one for MONMOUTH.

LETTER LXXIX.

WARWICKSHIRE.

REV. W. PALMER.

MY DEAR SIR,

I SHALL be obliged to pick my steps in WARWICKSHIRE as in every other county for fear of being interrupted by military ways, Roman stations, barrows, and other vestiges of antiquity, which at last were I to explore, I should learn nothing but circumstances that hang, and that very slightly, upon conjecture. I shall therefore only say that, as the vulgar have it, I am ready to give them all they know, and if it be true that this was one of the five counties which at the arrival of the Romans were inhabited by the Cornavii, and that under the Saxon heptarchy it formed a part of the MERCIA, much good may it do those who have an inclination to be solicitous about it.

WARWICKSHIRE is bounded on the north by STAFFORDSHIRE and LEICESTERSHIRE; on the east by LEICESTERSHIRE, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE, and part of OXFORDSHIRE; on the south by OXFORDSHIRE and GLOUCESTERSHIRE; and on the west by GLOUCESTERSHIRE, WORCESTERSHIRE and STAFFORDSHIRE. It extends in length thirty-three miles from north to south, twenty.six in breadth from east to west, and is a hundred and twenty-two miles in circumference. It is divided into five hundreds, and contains one city and thirteen market towns. It lies in the province of

CANTERBURY, and partly in the diocese of LITCHFIELD and COVENTRY, and partly that of WORCESTER, and sends six members to parliament.

The principal rivers are the Avon, the Leam and the Tame. The Avon flows out of NORTHAMPTONSHIRE, and croses the whole county of WARWICK, from the north-east to the south-west. It is navigable by barges to WARWICK, passes majestically by STRATFORD, flows iuto WORCESTERSHIRE, and joins the Severn as we have already seen, at TEWKSBURY in GLOUCESTERSHIRE. It is necessary to notice that this is the Upper Avon. The Lower Avon visits BATH. The Leam rises in the eastern borders of the county and falls into the Avon near WARWICK. The Tame, which becomes the Thames, rises in WORCESTERSHIRE, and it will therefore come better when I speak of that county. It will be proper, however, to say that these may be considered as the bodies of those innumerable streams which spread in all directions through this county, among which are the Anker, the Arrow, the Alne, the Swift, the Stour, some of which have been already described. There are some medicinal springs in WARWICKSHIRE; one at LIMINGTON near DUNCHURCH is said to be good for cutaneous diseases, one at ILMINGTON is reported to be the strongest chalybeate in ENGLAND, and one at NEWNHAM is esteemed a sovereign remedy for the stone.

WARWICKSHIRE is a pleasant and plentiful county, and full of all the conveniences of life. The air is very healthy in every part of it; for there are none of those fogs and mists which arise from fenny and marshy grounds. It was formerly divided into two parts seperated by the Avon. The northern part, called the woodland, is the largest of the two divisions, and was once overrun with wood; but the iron works soon rooted out the trees, and it is now by the assistance of marle and other manure become rich and productive arable land, yielding a quantity infinitely more than enough to supply the whole county. The southern part called the Feldon, also abounds in corn and pasture.

Entering the most northern part of WARWICKSHIRE, we come to HIGH-CROSS, where we instantly hear of Roman roads, and fosse ways, and Watling-streets. The cross, which is, or rather has been a handsome structure, was no doubt built

to perpetuate some great event, for which of course one side had reason to rejoice, and the other to lament, and therefore a philanthropist would feel at least as happy if there never had been any cross there at all. Some very ingenious enquirers have sagaciciously discovered that the cross stood in the center of a city, which had four streets; if so the builders of the city knew how to chuse a good situation, for the prospect from thence into WARWICKSHIRE and LINCOLNSHIRE is delightful.

There are many particulers to be picked up as you get to NUNEATON, ASTLEY, AUBURY, MEREVAL, ATHERSTON, and so to TAMWORTH, in which course you may amuse yourself with mighty battles, encounter Mercian kings, and pay your respects to black nuns. Such things, however, must not detain me, and luckily I am no Ulysses, in the business, for the history of these barbarities are not the songs of the syrens. TAMWORTH is encompassed with woodlands, and watered by the Tame and the Anker, which here unite their streams; but I shall leave it having already said as much as is sufficient on the subject in my account of STAFFORDSHIRE.

Of BIRMINGHAM, or BRUMIDGHAM, which is the best pronunciation, the place having been originally called BERMICHAM, it is very little necessary to enlarge. It comprises a mass of workshops and workmen; and, except in a very few instances it is impossible to know the master from the servant, and there are instances where you may call upon men of the first consequence whom you could scarcely single out from the dirtiest of their journeymen. Indeed it is impossible it should be otherwise. Each leads the same life, does the same hard work, drinks the same fat ale, nor does one seem to have more felicity in counting guineas than the other buttons, so completely is all distinction confounded among them. It must however be confessed that this is not always the case, and that there are some most noble manufactures highly creditable to English industry and English taste at BIRMINGHAM, for proof, the very name of BOLTON will bear out my assertion.

COVENTRY with all the obloquy thrown on it, and the annual custom of keeping up its charter by the mockery of making a wretched woman ride naked through

its streets, is a strange dull place.* I am informed, however, that no place can boast a set of heartier or more respectable characters than the town and vicinity of COVENTRY; and indeed, though there cannot be more than a small number of individuals who are in possession of considerable wealth, in comparison with the aggregate number of inhabitants, yet their riches are dispensed nobly and worthily, and in that way which can alone diffuse comfort and pleasure to their whole community.

WARWICK, as far as I remember, is a cheerful, well arranged town, which perhaps may be owing to its having been so often partially destroyed and restored, the history of all which devastations, could they be ascertained, would, I hope, be no more agreeable to my readers than to myself, and at any rate a jumble of Picts, Scots, Saxons, Danes, Mercians, and Romans, who thrust one another out, as old VELLUM says, even as one wedge drives out another, can have nothing to do with those observations I made on my tour, which include all that I have promised. I shall therefore leave WARWICK with saying, that it must be the fault of the inhabitants if they want beer, as they manufacture malt, and have the best cellars in ENGLAND, for they are all cut out of a rock, as are their wells. The situations around are beautiful, and on this account, and its great plenty of the necessaries of life, the horse races, and other amusements, it is, like CHESTER and some parts of DEVONSHIRE, resorted to by persons of middling fortune.

I shall say a word or two of STRATFORD-UPON-AVON, speak of a few botanical productions, and some of its celebrated characters, of which this county is richer than any other in ENGLAND, exactly as one immense diamond shames a myriad of sparks into nothing, and then bid adieu to WARWICKSHIRE. STRATFORD is a place of little consequence in itself, and, though it was considered as sacred ground when I witnessed it, and indeed was pretty active in all those tricks and fancies

* I once saw this ceremony. The lady has merely a muslin strained over her. It was then considered as a wonderful thing that a woman could be prevailed on to consent to this exposition. This was seven and thirty years ago. By the time the ladies have carried the rage of going without clothes a little further, I should not wonder to hear of candidates to represent Lady GODINA. When I saw this curious exhibition, there was a stuffed figure of PEEPING TOM, with the head thrust out of a window, in an old house near the CROSS.

which were intended, or rather pretended, to have been exhibited there for the purpose of a real performance to fill DRURY-LANE treasury; I never knew, after it became disenchanted, a duller place than this insignificant town. I have been frequently there, and when I last visited it, I had good proof of the axiom, that extravagant charges once established never come down, by finding that, even at that distance of time, they had not forgot the imposition through which they made such a penny at the Jubilee.

There is very little to say of the botanic productions in WARWICKSHIRE that I have not anticipated; for I find nothing but varieties of most of the plants already mentioned, in which, though the forms may be different, no new qualities can be found; colours, shapes, and leaves may have new properties, but the daffodil will always be a narcissus, the crow-foot a ranunculus, and the heath an erica. I shall therefore go on to celebrated characters, which, from magnitude, might be called SHAKESPEARE and his satellites, were it not that he shone without a necessity for borrowed reflection.

GREW, a very enlightened philosopher, and an ingenious botanist, was born at COVENTRY. He was a fellow of the Royal Society, and curator for the anatomy of plants. His works are numerous, and those most esteemed are his *Anatomy of Plants*; and his *Discourse of the Universe*. Sir THOMAS OVERBURY, well known by his elegant writings, but more by his tragical end, was a native of this county. It is almost needless to repeat that he fell a sacrifice to the intrigues of ROCHESTER, an infamous statesman, and his lascivious mistress the Countess of ESSEX. OVERBURY had strenuously opposed, upon principles of honour, a divorce between the Earl and the Countess of ESSEX, which, however, as well as her marriage with her paramour, they affected, not however till after, by their instructions, OVERBURY had been thrown into the TOWER and poisoned.

DUGDALE, to whom the praise of most indefatigable industry, though not genius, is amply due, as those who have had the patience to explore his various works will testify, was born at a place called SHUSTOCK. COMPTON, Bishop of LONDON, and a most eminent divine, was a native of COMPTON, in WRAWICKSHIRE.

Having lost his father at a tender age, his education was probably loosely attended to; for, after studying only three years, we find him upon his travels, and soon after an ensign in the guards. Letters, however, were his propensity; and having declared for the church, he gradually rose till he became Bishop of LONDON, having previously superintended the educations of the princesses MARY and ANNE. He opposed with the utmost zeal the papists and the puritans, and this so exasperated JAMES the Second, that he made a pretext of his having refused to suspend Dr. SHARP from preaching, to suspend him from his episcopal functions which step, as much as any thing, contributed to the overthrow of that unfortunate monarch. He was the zealous friend of government and its established religion, and died at the age of seventy-nine.

To describe the transcendant merits of SHAKESPEARE is beyond my power. This astonishing poet was born at STRATFORD-UPON-AVON April the sixteenth, 1564, and died April the twenty-third, 1616, so that he had merely entered his fifty-third year. Would any one know what language can alone speak his eulogium, in his works, which have given to his name the stamp of immortality, is that language to be found.

Yours, my dear Sir,

Leicester-Place, most truly,

March 9, 1802. C. DIBDIN.

	Aulcester	Birmingham	Coventry	Kineton	Meriden	Shipston	Southam	Stratford	Tamworth	Warwick	London
† Tues. Atherstone to	31	21	14	33	20	34	28	31	8	23	106
Tues. Aulcester to		19	19	19	28	19	27	8	36	15	104
Tues. Birmingham to			20	34	12	33	33	21	15	20	117
Frid. Coventry to				20	6	26	14	19	21	10	89
Tues. Kineton to					26	12	11	11	44	10	85
Meriden to						30	20	22	16	13	95
Frid. Shipston to							22	11	51	22	84
Mon. Southam to								19	35	14	80
Thurs. Stratford to									39	9	96
Sat. Tamworth										30	115
Sat. Warwick to											9[illegible]

WARWICKSHIRE.

Table of Distances in WARWICKSHIRE. The members are two for the county, two for COVENTRY, and two for WARWICK. COVENTRY, WARWICK and STRATFORD are each governed by a Mayor and Aldermen.

LETTER LXXX.

WORCESTERSHIRE.

Rev. W. PALMER.

MY DEAR SIR,

I SHALL beg the favour of you to attend me into another pleasant county, of which, though I do not mean to trouble either you or my readers with any of that solemn nonsense which has been so indefatigably promulgated as to its government, state, and boundaries, before the Saxon heptarchy, I hope to give you such general particulars as may satisfy enquirers who are more contented with reasonable and probable circumstances, than those which are neither interesting, nor indeed authentic.

WORCESTERSHIRE is an inland county, bounded by STAFFORDSHIRE on the north, by WARWICKSHIRE on the east, by GLOUCESTERSHIRE on the south, and by HEREFORDSHIRE and SHROPSHIRE on the west. It extends thirty-six miles in length, twenty-eight in breadth, and is in circumference a hundred and thirty. There are, however, several spots in this county detached from these bounds, some of which were anciently part of GLOUCESTERSHIRE, some of HEREFORDSHIRE, and others of OXFORDSHIRE, within the general borders of which counties they now lie, which assertion will, I hope, satisfy my readers, for were I to go into the particular circumstances of their having been at different times removed or exchanged, CAMDEN, STUKELY, and SALMON, would set us into a complete yawning, a sensation I

should be most truly sorry to occasion. This county is divided into seven hundreds; it is seated in the province of CANTERBURY and diocese of WORCESTER contains one city and ten market towns, and sends nine members to parliament.

The principal rivers in WORCESTERSHIRE are the Severn, the Temd, the Avon, and the Stour. The last rises in STAFFORDSHIRE, and running north, passes by STOURBRIDGE and KIDDERMINSTER, and near HARTLEBURY CASTLE discharges itself into the Severn.* The Severn, the Temd, and the Avon, I have already described. The smaller streams are the Bow, the Arrow, the Rea, the Swiliate, and the Salwarp, all which visit the meadows, and afford a wonderful fertility to vegetation. This county is remarkable for many salt springs and brine pans. The salt made at DROITWICH is excellent in quality, and in quantity prodigious. I was told fourteen years ago that the taxes paid for it to the crown were at least fifty-five thousand a year. On MALVERN-HILLS, which extend in a sober stately chain, and, though not very high, give an idea of majesty and grandeur, exactly as the human form is shewn to advantage by deportment, there are two springs called the Holy Wells, and we hear great things of their properties. I have not been able to ascertain any better virtues they possess than attracting company to imbibe health by the exercise and air taken on this desirable spot.

Indeed the air of this county is extremely sweet and healthy, for it is free from marshes and lakes, and therefore a stranger to fogs and vapours; and as to its face, it is neither level nor mountainous; for the hills, which are the MALVERN, the LICKY, the ABBERLY, and the WOODBURY, on which last no historian will tell you any thing, unless you are content to hear all the particulars, and measure all the dimensions of GLENDOWER'S CAMP, are in general pretty lofty, but their summits have no ambition to rival SKIDDAW, or even MAM-TOR. The MALVERN-HILLS are the most beautiful, though another range, called the BREEDON-HILLS, have the advantage of one of the finest situations in this country; for at their foot lies the smiling and productive valley of EVESHAM, or ESHAM, the granery of WORCESTERSHIRE and the theme of SHENSTONE.

* The Tame rises in WORCESTERSHIRE, but it will be more proper to give an account of it when I speak of MIDDLESEX.

This vale has the protection of these hills on one side, with the Avon flowing at their base; and, on the other, the woods about CHARLETON. This fruitful spot is said to hold the finest natural land in the world. It is laid fallow only once in four years; it requires very little manure, and yet it yields excellent crops. In this county there are very fine pastures, and the consequence is remarkably good butter and fat cheese. As for fruits, most sorts grow in WORCESTERSHIRE to great perfection. Pears are produced spontaneously in the hedges, and thus is this county famous for perry, some of which is flatulent, cold, and unwholesome; but the prime sort is completely the reverse, for it contains as good a body as any vinous liquor whatever. The soil, which is uncommonly rich in its nature, is of course favourable to the growth of hops, an article cultivated here to great advantage.

WORCESTERSHIRE had a number of forests, which are now almost wholly destroyed, occasioned in great measure by the prodigious quantities of wood consumed by the salt works. Hence the common fuel is at present pit-coal, which is brought from BRISTOL and STAFFORDSHIRE, and there are also considerable coal-pits near STOURBRIDGE. As this is a remarkable county for husbandry, and exhibits in itself one of those strong proofs that the earth, like the human constitution, needs little more than air and exercise, and that too much physic, or indeed too much food, only impedes its natural operations, it would give me pleasure to go into the arcana of their farming. This, however, for obvious reasons, is impossible, otherwise it would have served to have corroborated most of the positions laid down in my letter on agriculture. Good grass land lets from two to three pounds an acre; an acre will keep a cow during the summer, or feed seven sheep. Seven cows they consider a dairy. A cow will yield four or five gallons of milk. To three cows they generally keep two swine. Land sells at thirty and thirty-three years purchase.

EVESHAM is a pleasant town, seated on a gentle ascent from the Avon, over which is a handsome bridge. It is remarkable for having an extensive view over that beautiful valley I have already described, for having a considerable manufacture of worsted stockings, and for a famous and decisive battle, by which Prince,

afterwards EDWARD the First, established his power over the barons. PERSHORE, supposed to have taken its name from the multitude of pear-trees which grow in its neighbourhood, is an ancient town of pretty considerable extent, in the road from LONDON to WORCESTER. It has a bridge over the Avon, and it has many other things, such as a monastry, which has caused numberless disputes as to who founded it, and other particulars which I cannot stay to count; I shall therefore get on to WORCESTER, which is one of my most favourite places, not more because it is pleasantly situated on the Severn, and on account of other fortuitous advantages, than that there is a spirit and cordiality among the inhabitants which properly embraces the best purposes of rational existence.

The history of WORCESTER I cannot be expected to go into. Indeed I would almost as soon be set in a horse-pond as consult WILLIAM of MALMESBURY, DUGDALL, or even some more modern writers that I could name, on the subject. Not that I am disposed to disbelieve that it has, as Major STURGEON says, seen some desperate service, because I have no doubt that almost every city in the kingdom has done the same; nor that I do not consider the exploit of the inhabitants, when they shut their wives and children into the castle, and successfully scoured the country round, dispersing the Welch in all directions, as a brave and an attentive duty to their families and their connections. I only desire to applaud the conduct, while I regret the necessity for it, and beg that I may have leave to forget it altogether in the contemplation of the beauty and chearfulness of this smiling city as it now stands, consciously improving every day, under the reflection that those days of barbarity have long been gone by.

In the cathedral, which is not of the most magnificent kind, you are shewn the tomb of King JOHN, and another which was authenticated for the monument of the celebrated Countess of SALISBURY, till some curious antiquarian found out, by documents that nobody understood it, contains the remains of the Countess of SURRY, and the garter displayed upon it which begat her confusion, the witty saying of EDWARD the Third, and the order of knighthood is no more than a ribband, which holds the red and white roses in honour of the union of the houses of YORK and LANCASTER. The manufactures of WORCESTER are carpets; porcelaine,

and gloves, in the prosecution of which the inhabitants deserve what they get, for they seem contented with it. I contemplated with some curiosity the spot where CHARLES the Second lost the battle against CROMWELL's army, and the lane where he is said to have escaped by the overturning of a cart purposely managed, which sort of facts, whether literal or exaggerated, carry with them a kind of interest, because we not only know but feel all the circumstances involved in them.

DROITWICH, with its salt works; KIDDERMINSTER, with its carpets; STOURBRIDGE, with its glass-houses; HAGLEY, where every traveller goes to see the beautiful gardens and grounds of the LITTLETONS; BEWDLEY, which has been celebrated at different times for being, like COLCHESTER, SHAFTSBURY, and some other places, the seat of electioneering contests; and other parts of WORCESTERSHIRE, I am compelled to pass by, and therefore can give no more space to this letter than to speak concisely of plants and celebrated characters. Of botanic productions I find only about five which are not universally common, and even those are only rare as they are varieties of other plants.

The *colchicum*, or common meadow saffron, with both purple and white flowers, is to be found plentifully in almost all the meadows. The *colchicum*, on account of its acid and corrosive quality, has been condemned by the physicians as a poison. The ancients, however, greatly esteemed it, and called it *hierobulbus*. Much has been said to prove that it is a sovereign remedy in the plague, and that, worn round the neck, it is a preservative from the infection. STORCK, of VIENNA, pronounces this medicine to be a powerful diuretic, and a kind of miraculous remedy for all sorts of desperate dropsies. The lesser green-leaved hound's tongue, *cynoglossum*. It is known by the disagreeable smell of its flowers, which are purple. It is said to be good as a vulnerary, and that it has given great assistance in scrophulous cases. The sorb, or service-tree, *sorbus pyriformis*. This is well known as an agreeable flowering shrub, which bears a berry, of which singing birds, and particularly blackbirds, are extremely fond. Its qualities I have spoken of among the plants of STAFFORDSHIRE. Polonian

wheat, *triticum polonicum,* is, like the buck wheat and the cow wheat, an excellent plant to cultivate. It grows common in the fields in WORCESTERSHIRE.

Bishop BONNOR, the great favourite and abettor of the sanguinary Queen MARY, was born of mean parents at HANLEY. His life was a series of folly, insolence, and wickedness. When he was, by the interest of WOLSEY, made ambassador at ROME, he so incensed the Pope that it was a doubt whether he would be burnt alive, or thrown into a caldron of boiling lead. He assisted HENRY the Eighth in effecting the reformation; but this was not a work to his satisfaction, for his genius waited for action till it came in contact with a mind like that of the abominable mistress he, for the misfortune of mankind, was born to serve. The facts are notorious. This diabolical pair brought to the stake in three years more than two hundred protestants. After the accession of ELIZABETH he was deprived of his bishoprick, and thrown into the MARSHALSEA, where he lived in lingering torment, for, like the hiss of a serpent that had lost its sting, his curses were ineffectual; and, among all the various relatives of those whose lives he had destroyed, with every aggravated circumstance of cruelty, not one could be found to retaliate the ruin on his head that he had brought upon theirs. Ten years did he suffer this mental torture, longing for death, yet fearing its terrible consequences.

Lord SOMERS, Lord High Chancellor of ENGLAND, was born at WORCESTER. His character was that of a most learned lawyer, a powerfully great statesman, and a singularly disinterested patriot. He acted as counsel for the seven bishops at their trial; and at length, in quality of lord chancellor, enjoyed the confidence of his royal master and the public uninterruptedly for ten years; but, to shew the fluctuation of power and authority, he was accused by the Commons of high crimes and misdemeanours. He, however, came out pure from the ordeal; from which moment he very wisely chose to retire from all active public business. He nevertheless gave his assistance in the union with SCOTLAND, and presided at the Royal Society. and so conducted himself as to deserve, notwithstanding the sarcasms of SWIFT, all the generous praise which ADDISON has bestowed on him in the Freeholder.

That gallant knight and renowned warrior, BEAUCHAMP, Earl of WARWICK, was a native of SALWARPE. He will be recollected by the reader as having greatly distinguished himself in suppressing the rebellions of GLENDOWER and the two PIERCIES. He signalized himself in the wars in FRANCE, and, at the death of HENRY the fifth's brother, became regent of that kingdom. DERHAM, a philosopher and divine, was born at STOWTON, near WORCESTER. The works by which his memory is said to have been immortalized are his Phisico-Theology and his Astro-Theology. BUTLER was born at STRENTHAM. He had a correct education, but nothing is so easy as to see that he was a self-created poet. Hudibras is not cultured earth; it is a mine, and a most inestimable one, and the beauty, the wit, the reasoning, and all its other admirable qualities, come from a source infinitely beyond the schools; but all this is known to my readers as well as to myself, and therefore I shall take leave of BUTLER and of WORCESTERSHIRE, by noticing that this great man, who was one of those few wonders which are to be heard of no where but in this country, shared the usual fate of all such characters. He delighted, he instructed, he amended the minds of his fellow creatures, and in return was treated with indifference and neglect; and yet, oh disgrace to human nature, how many grinning and ugly apes of the animated and manly BUTLER have made fortunes! I am sure you will join me with sorrow on the reflection.

Leicester-Place, Yours very truly,

March 14, 1802 C. DIBDIN.

	Bromsrove	Droitwich	Evesham	Kidderminster	Pershore	Tenbury	Upton	Worcester	London
Sat. Bewdly to	13	11	31	3	25	14	25	16	129
Tues. Bromsgrove to		14	24	9	18	33	21	12	117
Frid. Droitwich to			21	8	16	25	16	6	119
Mond. Evesham to				25	6	34	15	14	106
Thurs. Kidderminster to					24	17	25	15	126
Tues. Pershore to						29	9	9	103
Tues. Tenbury to							28	20	135
Thurs. Upton to								9	110
W. F. & Sat. Worcester to									120

WORCESTERSHIRE.

Table of Distances in WORCESTERSHIRE. The market days are placed before the towns. WORCESTER and EVESHAM are respectively governed by a mayor and aldermen, and the members are two for the county, two for WORCESTER, two for DROITWICH, two for EVESHAM, and one for BEWDLY.

LETTER LXXXI.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

Rev. W. PALMER.

MY DEAR SIR,

I SHALL now beg you to attend me into a county where though nature is almost as smiling and as indulgent as in WORCESTERSHIRE, every thing wears a sort of discontented air, something like that kind of countenance which people say will turn milk. Not that this happens every where, and to say the truth it would be a great pity if it were to do so. CHELTENHAM for example now and then rallies up its spirits; but I appeal by way of sample to any one who has been there whether there can be found in ENGLAND so dull a place as GLOUCESTER.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE is bounded on the north by WARWICKSHIRE, WORCESTERSHIRE, and part of HEREFORDSHIRE; on the east by WARWICKSHIRE and OXFORDSHIRE; on the south by WILTSHIRE and SOMERSETSHIRE; and on the east by MONMOUTHSHIRE and HEREFORDSHIRE. It is about fifty-six miles in length from the north-east to the south west, twenty-two in breadth from the north-west to the south-east, and has a circumference of nearly a hundred and flfty-six miles. It is in the province of CANTERBURY, and diocese of GLOUCESTER. It is divided into thirty hundreds, it

contains one city and twenty-five market towns, and it sends eight members to parliament.

The principal rivers are the Severn, the Wye, the Stroud, and the two Avons. The Severn I have already particularly described. The word Severn is said to be a corruption of SABRINA, why nobody has pretended to say, unless as some insist the river received that name from the Romans. I should not have mentioned it here, because it is out of my way, were it not to shew that with a little ingenuity any thing may be made feasible, and upon this principle I should not wonder if some historian were to rest his authority for this fact on MILTON, who invokes his goddess of the silver lake, by the name of SABRINA, calling her the nymph "that sways the smooth Severn stream." The Wye, which in the ancient British tongue is said to signify a river or a water, rises within half a mile of the source of the Severn and flowing south-east seperates RADNORSHIRE and BRECKNOCKSHIRE from each other; then running through HEREFORDSHIRE, and parting MONMOUTHSHIRE from GLOUCESTERSHIRE, it falls into the Severn about three miles to the south of CHEPSTOW.

The Stroud rises near PAINSWICK in this county, and taking a circuit of no great extent, it falls into the Severn about six miles below GLOUCESTER. The water of this river is remarkably clear, and is said to have such a peculiar property in dying scarlet and different ground colours, that no other can give them so fine a gloss, and one should suppose that this is a fact, for there are fulling mills enough on its banks to engage the attention of twenty Don Quixotes. The Upper Avon I have described. The Lower Avon also, distinguished by the name of Avon west, rises near TETBURY, and, seperating GLOUCESTERSHIRE from SOMERSETSHIRE, visits the neighbourhood of BATH, and falls into the Severn near BRISTOL. The only medicinal spring in GLOUCESTERSHIRE, is at CHELTENHAM. I shall take a future opportunity to speak of it.

This county is divided into three parts; COTESWOLD, the VALE, and the FOREST of DEAN. COTESWOLD is not very fertile, but it feeds multitudes of sheep, whose wool is very fine and in high esteem. This of course contributes to the

cloathing manufactures in the county, at which fifty thousand pieces of cloth have been made, as I was told fourteen years ago, in one year. The VALE is situated in the middle of the county, and consists of a fertile plain that extends on both sides the Severn. In this VALE the cheese is made which in LONDON is so much esteemed. It must be confessed, however, that the cheese of other counties is often sold instead of it.

The FOREST of DEAN lies in the western part of the county. It is of a triangular form, inclosed between the Wye, the Severn, and the small river Leden. It contains thirty thousand acres of land, is twenty miles long and ten broad, and it was anciently overrun with woods. The oaks that grow in that part of the wood which is still preserved are esteemed the best in ENGLAND. I don't, however, exactly see that fact; for, though it is well known that, when the Spaniards, by means of the Armada, sold the bear's skin before they had taken the bear, they had it in contemplation to destroy this forest, as the most effectual way to ruin our marine, it only proves that it was then in a very flourishing state, but not that it grew finer oaks than the NEW FOREST, SHERWOOD FOREST, or the woods in YORKSHIRE, all which, however, have been too much thinned without the provident care of proper succession.

Woods in this kingdoom have been too much destroyed in favour of mining; and here in particular, since the discovery of iron, timber has been considered as a secondary object, especially as in some of their iron ores they have found veins of gold. On the GLOUCESTER side of the Lower Avon is DURDHAM DOWNS, which are large and extensive, and abound with rocks that, when broken, yield a substance like granite. They have also mundick and talc mixed in them, which makes them glitter. The earth is besides full of sulphurous substances, and this induces a belief that copper, tin, and lead, or some one of them, may be found there, because mundick never fails, as we have seen in CORNWALL, to be the harbinger of such discoveries. As to the cylindrical stones, cannon balls, cockles and oysters, which are discovered there, I shall leave them to look after the red and yellow okers, because they may be turned to some use. They are, however, exactly like those which are found in SOMERSETSHIRE. BRISTOL stones

are discovered in great plenty, and the star stones, called astroites, are not very beautiful, but create very awful ideas in the superstitious, for when put in vinegar they have a motion, which is a thing accounted for in the easiest manner; for, the acid meeting with the alkali of the stone, the force of the consequent fermentation actually gives it a degree of motion, especially if the stones are small.

Of towns in GLOUCESTERSHIRE I can now do little more than mention names. As to GLOUCESTER itself, which has never recovered its despondency since BRISTOL ran away with its trade, it is impossible for any thing to be more dull and spiritless. Indeed, it would be literally asleep, if the whips of the coachmen and the postillions did not now and then rouse the inhabitants. The cathedral is a fine old structure, and the tower is considered as a curious specimen of ancient architecture, and once in three years, when, in its turn with WORCESTER and HEREFORD, the Music Meeting is held there, the tombs, the octagon, whispering gallery, a curious circumstance, by the bye, for one should think the angles would break the sound, and all the other objects, are really inspected by a few strangers. At other times they are sleepy and religious; and it is from the number of dissenters and sectaries among these pin-makers comes the saying, "As sure as GOD's "in GLOUCESTER."

FAIRFORD is celebrated for its church and its twenty-eight windows, in which are painted the History of the Bible, from the temptation of EVE to the birth of our SAVIOUR. The whole is said to have been performed by ALBERT DURER, and that they were intended for the Pope; but they were made a prize of at sea by a merchant of the name of TAME, who, being in possession of the windows, founded a church by way of a frame for them. TEWKESBURY is a lively place enough; and as to CHELTENHAM, it is what the visitors think proper to make it. It has of course fluctuated like all other places that depend upon fashion, in which word is implied caprice, and at one time it was materially injured by a report that flocks of pigeons, by eating the salt in those places where the water had partially evaporated, contributed very much to impoverish the virtues of the spa. If it be true that the pigeons actually committed these depredations, I should like to know what the rooks were about.

CIRENCESTER has nothing remarkable but that it was once governed by a mayor and aldermen; that from indolence it lost its charter; and that the only church it boasts, in its present dwindled state, has, in humble imitation of that of FAIRFORD, twenty-eight painted windows from scriptural subjects. TETBURY is pleasantly situated on the borders of WILTSHIRE, and has every advantage of an agreeable country residence except water, which in dry summers has been sold for eighteen pence a hogshead.

There are many plants, and some of them curious enough, that grow in GLOUCESTERSHIRE, among which we find marsh asparagus, *asparagus palustris.* This plant is generally supposed to be maritime, but it is certainly no more than the common or manured asparagus growing wild. The country people gather the buds, or young shoots, and sell them at BRISTOL market. There is a peculiar wild madder, which is certainly admitted as a rubia, but it has little if any of the madder, which I have described in my account of DEVONSHIRE. This madder grows on St. VINCENT'S ROCK, and so does a peculiar kind of sengrene, which is a *sedum,* and related of course, though perhaps distantly, to all *ficoideses* and *mysembrianthemums.* There is a knob-rooted *anemone,* or wild-flower, which has a remarkably ornamental effect on the COTESWOLD-HILLS. The rest are an elegant broad-leaved imperforate St. John's wort; the box-tree, *buxus aborescens;* daisy-leaved lady's smock, small autumnal hyacinth, rock parsley, and finely cut annual mountain cresses.

FOX, an eminent statesman, almoner to HENRY the Eighth, and Bishop of HEREFORD, was born at DURSLEY. He was introduced to court by his brother the Bishop of WINCHESTER, and for the purpose of keeping up his political back hand. CARTWRIGHT, an eminent divine, was a native of NORTHWAY, near TEWKSBURY. CHAMBERLAYNE, a chronicler well known, and a great traveller, particularly in books, was born at ODINGTON. Sir ROBERT ATKINS, lord chief baron of the exchequer, was descended of a very ancient family in this county; and so was RICHARD ATKINS, though no relation to Sir ROBERT. The latter is remarkable for having raised a troop of horse at his own expence for the service of CHARLES the First.

Fowler, Bishop of Gloucester, and a divine of considerable eminence, was born at Westerleigh. He published a variety of tracts in defence of the Christian religion. Huntingdon, the celebrated collector of oriental languages, for which purpose he visited Jerusalem and Palmyra, and travelled over almost all Galilee and Samaria, was a native of Deorhyrst. Oldham, styled, some think facetiously, the English Juvenal, was born at Skipton. Trapp, an excellent scholar an eminent divine, was a native of Cherrington. This writer was a proof that men are too apt fondly to fancy they possess endowments, when in fact their whole merit consists in acquirements. Scholastic trappings of every description became Trapp as decorously as his surplice; but when he came to robes and buskins, he was totally at a loss. Nothing could be better than his putting Milton into Latin, but his putting *Abramule* on the stage had better have been let alone. In short, he had the learning of a scholar and the taste of a critic; but he was one among many men of eminence who write but to confirm the world in a constant truth, that schools can teach, but that nature alone can inspire.

I thank you, my dear Sir, for your partiality and solicitude.

Leicester-Place, Yours, most truly and heartily,

March 17, 1802. C. DIBDIN.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

Table of Distances in GLOUCESTERSHIRE. GLOUCESTER and SODBURY are each governed by a Mayor and Aldermen. The members are two for the county, two for the city of GLOUCESTER, two for CIRENCESTER, aud two for TEWKSBURY.

	Campden	Cheltenham	Cirencester	Dean	Dursley	Gloucester	Newent	Newnham	Northleech	Sodbury	Stroud	Tewksbury	London
W. & S. Bristol to	65	43	36	38	26	34	44	32	45	11	33	44	120
Wed. Campden to		19	31	40	46	28	24	40	19	55	39	19	91
Thurs. Cheltenham to			22	21	24	9	19	21	14	36	20	9	95
M. & F. Cirencester to				29	19	17	27	29	9	25	14	26	89
Mon. Dean to					21	12	17	6	32	32	21	23	117
Thurs. Dursley to						16	28	16	28	11	15	27	108
W. & S. Gloucester to							9	12	20	27	11	11	105
Frid. Newent to								11	30	37	21	12	111
Frid. Newnham to									32	27	23	23	117
Wed. Northleech to										34	23	23	82
Thurs. Sodbury to											24	38	114
Frid. Stroud to												22	102
W. & S. Tewksbury to													104

LETTER LXXXII.

WATERING PLACES.

WILLIAM WOODFALL, Esq.

MY DEAR SIR,

MY business in this place is to perform a promise I made in a former letter on the subject of watering places; and, having considered there how far they are a particular benefit to society, it will here be necessary to examine whether they may be pronounced beneficial in their general operation.

In order to illustrate the first part of this text, I have taken pains, and I think with some success, to shew that baths and springs may be brought artificially to such perfection as to produce all their essential purposes without the necessity of our stirring from home. In the pains I have taken to prove this, I hope I may be considered as entitled to a compliment on my ingenuity, however the interested may be inclined to accuse me of uncharitableness and innovation, and of harbouring an intention to reduce BATH, HARROWGATE, BUXTON, CHELTENHAM, MARGATE, SOUTHAMPTON, and about twenty other places, to an absolute state of starvation. An intention, however, of such an invidious nature I most peremptorily disclaim; and I sincerely declare that, if any or all of these baths or spas can bring forward certificates to establish that they have performed those wonderful cures attributed to them, or even that they have not done more harm than

good, I will retract every word I have written, and most ardently advise all fathers of families to risk every chance of beggary and family disquiet, to let business remain at sixes and sevens at home, and dash off for a watering place, provided always that such certificates are neither signed by physicians, Naiades and Nereids of the baths, nor owners of lodging-houses; but, if they should find themselves driven from all possible defence, and feel a conscious conviction that I have spoken, though a mortifying yet incontrovertible truth, let them take up and live honestly, or, what will probably serve their purpose full as well and be much more in their way, let them rely on the folly and depravity of the times, and rest assured of their usual attention and protection, even though the world were admonished by a ten times abler censor.

The utmost I can attempt, which however I do not promise to accomplish, is to remove the veil in which the danger is shrouded, and then, if the thoughtless should think proper to plunge into it with their eyes open, I shall have done my duty, and can have nothing to reproach myself with. Let us see the motives which induce, not these salutary, but these fashionable visits. Is an old gentleman or an old lady advised by the physicians to try the BATH or any other waters? are they privately and quietly taken under the care of a nurse, and settled in comfortable lodgings, where every convenience and assistance may be properly afforded them? No such thing. All the cousins and aunts, to the third and fourth generation, are invited to make a party and keep it up. Business is left to clerks and houses to servants, and the contest is, which shall spend most money, those at BATH or those in town.

When the party arrive at this gay region, dress, racket, and dissipation, are all that occupy their attention. The advantage of the sick person, for whose convenience the journey was undertaken, is never thought of for a moment. If a lady, she is lugged into the midst of the throng; she bathes in the morning, and hobbles through a dance, by way of sudorific, in the evening; and, if she be too much indisposed to mix with the company at the rooms, she may have her little cotteries at home, especially if she be careful to keep her purse well supplied for the exigencies of the card table. Sick gentlemen will have no

complaint to make for want of a similar accommodation, in all which the very physicians will lend a helping hand, and be the first to advise their patients to take a hand at cards to keep the mind free from care and thought, though the certain consequence must be, for there is no instance in which they do not play a losing game, that the sums of money sure to be lost cannot fail to sour a man's blood at one sitting to such a degree that all the water in BATH can never sweeten it again.

One naturally speaks of BATH because it is advantageous to take the strongest ground in argument, and I particularly do so here, that I may show frivolity and dissipation in its most glaring light, in order to shock the recollection of those who aukwardly ape those absurd and ruinous follies, and on whom alone by the way I can hope to make any impression, or indeed am very desirous to do so, for to lavish away hereditary wealth even upon the worthless is a very trifling clag upon the operations of society, whereas to be profuse with money obtained through the medium of many collateral interests is to turn the stream of industry from its course, and impoverish the sources whence flow the circulation of commerce. Let me then leave the frivolous and the thoughtless to themselves, because they are incorrigible, while I awaken the prudence and caution of the wary; who, having amassed riches by application and industry, ought to be the last to trifle them away ridiculously or unworthily.

BATH, says a foreigner, is a place where people dance, game, bathe, drink water, dress and intrigue at the word of command, which is given by the master of the ceremonies. This gentleman is not in general a person of birth, nor of a great estate, but one who by a good address and assurance ingratiates himself into the good graces of the ladies, and those are most happy who can procure a smile of distinction from him. He wears good cloaths, is always affluent of money, plays very deep, and whatever he may get in private, yet in public he always seems to lose. It would be vulgar at BATH not to bathe, and thus, sick or well, you are waked early in the morning by two chairmen, who come to your bed-side, lye in whatever story you may, you are then wrapt up in blankets, crammed into the chair, borne off half asleep, and soused into warm water.

Nothing can be imagined more strange than the effect of the baths, and the appearance of the bathers. The smoke and slime of the waters, the promiscuous multitude of persons of different sexes and ages with only their hands and heads above water, and the height of the wall that encloses the bath, give one a lively idea of the pictures painted by MICHAEL ANGELO, that represent the souls in purgatory, where we see nothing but heads and hands uplifted in the midst of smoke, just as we do here. SMOLLET has carried this idea much further; but every thing was filthy in the opinion of SMOLLET except SCOTLAND.

This picture is very strong, and it is not a very pleasant reflection that so much truth should be told of us in other countries; but what care the fashionable and the dissipated for exposition? It is a constant and a melancholy fact that the higher orders of society act in open defiance of all decency; but what is much more lamentable their inferiors, however the means may be procured, stick at nothing to indulge in the same ridiculous follies. In LONDON it is all very well. People of fashion stick to the opera and to their own private parties, and fly about naked, and nobody cares two-pence about it; but, when they come down determined to quiz the vulgar and do up the cits at bathing places, it is really outrageous. How pitiful to see sturdy young girls arrive in robust health, and spite of nature sop and souse themselves into the vapours, so that after having been rational, happy, and a comfort to their friends and society, they so transform their minds that neither themselves, their friends nor society know what to make of them; it is actually inverting the order of reason, and they may be assured for one thing that nothing upon earth can be so impolitic; for though they may get smarts who with an eye to their fortunes are very ready and willing to make them miserable, yet they place an insurmountable barrier against every chance of attracting that worth and honour which alone can insure them happiness.

Happiness! what has that to do with the business? The word is pleasure; and this phantom is chased in view, forgetting that in following general and indiscriminate pleasure they are far gone on the road to misery; but, says the disciple

of dissipation, is there any novelty in the fact? Has not nature always been the same? besides, is not our conduct our own? and if we chuse to swim in the current of fashion, whatever its velocity or its dangers what is that to you?

There is certainly no novelty in the fact. Even in the time of EPSOM-WELLS, a fashionable sprig of that day writes thus to his friend. "Here," says he, "every "old man wishes himself young, and every young man is captivated in a hundred "places at once; and, as for beauty, a lady without teeth in the morning shall "cut a beautiful set before night, and the lily of the breakfast table shall yield to "the rose of the ball-room. In the raffling shops hearts and guineas are staked "together. A sparkish young fellow of twenty-five wins the purse and the peace "of mind of an amorous dowager of sixty-six, and an old hunks loses as fast as he "plays, while he is leering at a green girl of thirteen, who by the bye cares no "more for him than he does for his wife at home.

"We have here the rude, the sullen, the noisy, and the affected; the peevish, "the covetous, the litigious, and the sharping; the proud, the prodigal, the im-"patient, and the impertinent. Then we have bankrupt fortune-hunters, crazy "or superannuated beaux, married coquets, intriguing prudes, richly dressed "waiting maids, and complimenting footmen. From all which account it is plain "we are not quite in heaven here, though we may justly be said to be in paradise; "a place co-habited by innocence and guilt, folly and fraud from the beginning." This letter, which runs on in a vein of pleasantry to a great length, proves certainly that folly has not altered its nature, but that ninety years ago, or at the present moment at EPSOM or at BATH, in the fashionable seasons will be found the same treachery, and the same credulity, the same rooks and the same pigeons. A beautiful young woman of fashion speak g of the charms of BATH in the company of Dr. RADCLIFF, "Well, but," said the Doctor, "what with that "bloom and glow of health could induce you to go there?" "Nothing but "wantonness, Doctor," said the young lady, very ingenuously, "Well, and "pray Madam," returned the Doctor, "did it cure you?"

All this proves certainly there it no novelty in profligacy, but it however corroborates its mischievous and baneful effects, and that this folly is in the garden of life like a noxious weed in the garden of nature, the convolvolus for example, which spreads out its snowy and elegant flowers to the eye, while its shoots grasp every wholesome plant in its way only to strangle and destroy it. The more lovely the seduction, the more terrible the danger. There were at all times too many horrid examples of loose and unprincipled conduct, but I'll venture to say that for one prostitute found in the licentious reign of CHARLES the Second fifty unhappy wretches of that description may be found now. The native and conscious modesty of English females, thanks to boarding-schools, novels, and watering places, is rare indeed. Fashion laughs virtue out of countenance; matches of the heart are no more; weak women are taught to exhibit a bold and lascivious appearance, and that softness and delicacy that, DESDEMONA like, blushed at itself, is no longer the inestimable recommendation of English beauty.

See how females deceive themselves and completely lose sight of their real interest. Concealment encloses attraction, while indifference and disgust are the sensations inspired by charms that are become common and familiar. It is to the encrease and enlargement of watering places, and all the collateral dissipation they disseminate, that the age is indebted for so much abasement and disgrace. Social life cannot teach these humiliating irregularities; at least in any thing like the same latitude. There friends and relations only are admitted; there gamblers, fortune-hunters, and the rest of the crew intrude with difficulty, and are sooner detected; there the ties of friendship and affection are encouraged and cherished, and an honorable jealousy of flatterers and meddlers, guards the reputations, and consequently the happiness of the community.

The remedy in this evil as in every other lies with the public. I have abundantly shewn that watering places are not a general benefit, and though I would not undertake so mad or so impossible a task as to exorcise all those hideous phantoms to which fashion has transformed nature; yet, devoted as I am to the public, I consider it as a duty to hold up this mirror, and if I can induce only

one in a hundred to feel conviction by a contemplation of the deformity exhibited in it, I shall very easily console myself for the reproaches of the immense numbers of interested persons who, were watering places confined to valetudinarians, would either be out of employ or compelled to get an honest livelihood. The difference would then be that one large portion of the world would return to reason and another to industry; but this I fear I must not hope. The contagion is too far spread; the poison too virulent; and if it were permitted publicly to deplore mental mortality, the weekly bills might not unaptly, in addition to the christenings and burials, be swelled with a list of elopements and divorces.

Yours my dear sir,

Leicester-Place, with great esteem and sincerity,

March 22, 1802. C. DIBDIN.

LETTER LXXXIII.

SOMERSETSHIRE.

JOHN SHELDON, Esq.

MY DEAR SIR,

I ONCE more, with great and willing pleasure, hail you as a correspondent; and, as I never write with more ease or satisfaction to any of my friends, both because I know I cannot be more carefully or competently watched, and that your kind and warm good wishes accompany every line I write, I shall not lose sight of the advantage I propose to myself in your company till I get to the end of my labour.

I have addressed my remarks on six counties to our kind and valuable friend, and your relation, Mr. PALMER, who has furnished me with some curious particulars relative to SOMERSETSHIRE, and to whom I should have submitted my observations on this county also, had I not considered that in right they belong to you. I shall avail myself of his assistance, which I here acknowledge to be like every thing from him, attentive and friendly. I took my leave of him at GLOUCESTER on the twenty-second of August, and on the day following I arrived at BRISTOL, where we will remain for a short time to take a retrospective view of such parts of SOMERSETSHIRE as I have not yet had an opportunity of describing.

I must confess that BATH is a place by no means suited to my taste, which, however, may be no deduction from those attractions which so many of the gay, the idle, the thoughtless, and the dissipated, find in it; but I have in my last letter gone into this, and therefore it is my proper business to consider it here merely as a city, and a principal object in the scale of that opulence and consequence which mark the advantages of SOMERSETSHIRE. I shall reject, however, all the contradictions of those who pass by the beautiful streets, squares, and circuses, of which it is now composed, and who seem to attach no merit to it but in proportion as it cau be traced to the remotest antiquity; who, on one side, with equal gravity and obstinacy, maintain in the teeth of all other disputants the story, with its various circumstances, of King BLADUD and his pigs; and, on the other, with unconquerable firmness, the whole business of its being dedicated to MINERVA, and being called by the ancient Britons CAER PALLADER, or the city of the waters of PALLAS: All this, and a great deal more, I shall leave to be discussed by those valetudinarians who hobble upon the parades, peep at the bathers, or hum Italian airs out of time in the concert rooms, and merely say that the buildings are magnificent in appearance and immense in number, and that all those who are overburthened with cash, and have an inclination to give their sons, their daughters, and their servants, a tonish finish to their educations, may sin in haste and repent at leisure by passing a season at BATH.

BRISTOL, though only at the distance of twelve miles, is in comparison with BATH another zone. It is impossible upon the face of the globe for two places essentially to be more unlike. At BATH every thing is superficial, at BRISTOL every thing is substantial. At BATH every thing is gay, at BRISTOL every thing is grave. In BATH they live in fine houses and are poor, at BRISTOL in shabby ones and are rich. At careless BATH nothing is thought of but the present moment, at provident BRISTOL nothing is done but with an eye to the future. They are actuated by an equal, though a different species of folly, for one flies off from the reasonable distinction of human pursuits, and seeks for pleasures that have no place but in the imagination, like a volatile body which leaves the earth and loses itself in a space; while the other is buried in the muck and grossness of sensual en-

joyments, till the wearied appetite is sunk in gorged satiety, without capacity to know distinction.

Exactly as TAMWORTH stands both in STAFFORDSHIRE and WARWICKSHIRE, so BRISTOL is situated on both sides of the Avon, and therefore both in SOMERSETSHIRE and GLOUCESTERSHIRE; but, as it is always mentioned in the parliament rolls as in SOMERSETSHIRE, it is proper it should be so noticed here. This very large and populous city is built, to the remotest part of every nook, as completely for business as a bee-hive; and, were it not for QUEEN'S-SQUARE, it would be quite as agreeable to live at WAPPING. With all the industry and nearness which to a proverb characterizes BRISTOL, it certainly has very materially fallen in proportion as LIVERPOOL and HULL has grown into consequence. I noticed to a gentleman that I was concerned at not finding the same symptoms of improvement in BRISTOL as at other opulent sea-ports, some of which are so altered that it is scarcely possible to know them. "Oh," said he, "if that be all, we are "altered too; the difference is, that there the inhabitants cannot be supplied "with houses, and here the houses cannot be supplied with inhabitants." It is impossible, however, but that BRISTOL must be very rich, for never was a place so systematically conducted for turning a penny, and the superb improvements at CLIFFDEN, which render it in my idea a situation infinitely superior to any thing about BATH for the residence of persons of fortune, cannot but diffuse a large circulation of money, not only throughout the city, but for many miles round; besides, the company at the hot well have a way of emptying their purses as well as those at BATH, though perhaps more methodically. By the way, it is a melancholy thing to contemplate nature in its last stage, especially when it has been helped on by folly. I most seriously declare that two thirds of the patients who were there at the time I visited it were young ladies who had brought themselves to the lowest ebb of life, and were given over in consumptions through a slavish obedience to the present style of dress.

Having mentioned some of the principal towns, and the particulars relative to them, in my former letter, it will not be in my power to do more in this place than to take advantage of some remarks my kind and attentive friend PALMER has

suggested, and afterwards speak of its botanic productions and its celebrated characters. I have remakred that TAUNTON lost its charter by what they call an arbitrary act, but what every candid man must call an act of justice, for it was done in noble resentment of their treachery, and manifested a strong proof that CHARLES the Second, with all his levity, entertained a love and reverence for the memory of his father. This charter was afterwards renewed; and, as common prudence dictated a necessary jealousy and watchfulness in this measure, its powers were limited, as I have before described; but I had not then learned, which I now find is a fact, that so loosely and negligently had they managed the concerns of the corporation, that when in 1792 they came to elect a mayor, a dispute arose, and an investigasion took place. Upon which it appeared, like telling out the house of commons, that as the corporation had from time to time neglected to fill up their number, and therefore the surviving burgesses were not competent to the purposes of the charter, the mayor could not by any legal authority be elected, and thus the charter fell to the ground.

Some particulars relative to the relief of the poor in SOMERSETSHIRE, and indeed in some degree in DEVONSHIRE, merits notice. The children, that they may be taken off the hands of their parents, are apprenticed to the farmers, clearly with a view to make the peasantry more expert, and of course more independant, by a knowledge of husbandry. This intended good, however, proved in many instances an intolerable evil; for the children were treated like slaves instead of servants, and many acts of cruelty were practised. These, however, to the honour of both counties, were no sooner discovered than a legal investigation was instituted, and the magistrates, assisted by the resident clergy, have in great measure cured these abuses. It is impossible to make their wisdom, their prudence, and their humanity, too public. Regular returns are now made to the quarter sessions of the number and situations of all apprentices. They are also required to attend divine service, to give opportunity for an examination into their conduct and their morals, and indeed, if it should be necessary, into the treatment they receive; in which investigation, when any flagrant neglect appears, the masters are constantly summoned and punished, and thus, by the

temperate yet decisive co-operation of the religious and social duties, the essential interests of society are insured.

There are a great variety of circumstances relative to SOMERSETSHIRE, and in particular there is a curious story of a quaker who was determined to take advantage of some speculatists, whose heads were filled with an idea that coals were to be found south of the MENDIP-HILLS. The inhabitants of CHARD, in anxious hope that this discovery would make their fortunes gave into the delusion. The quaker very gravely assured them that he knew the whole process of boring a coal-pit, and that they had nothing to do but supply him with money to accomplish the undertaking. Every day improved their hopes, and symptoms of success seemed to increase on every trial, especially if it was accompanied by a fresh subscription. At length, when the string of their credulity was wound up so tight that he began to fear it would crack, the quaker found it convenient to dream that the pit had fallen in; and, being, as he said, moved by the spirit to save the lives of the workmen, who were of course in the secret, the matter was so well concerted, that, as soon as they were in safety the accident took place. EPHRAIM pretended to be greatly moved at this misfortune, and persuaded the proprietors to bore anew; but, having been already bored out of a hundred and twenty pounds a piece, and being privately informed that they had been imposed on from the beginning, and that the quaker had been bribed to play them this trick by the owner of a coal mine in the neighbourhood, they desired him to move off; and, instead of pocketting the immense riches this mine was to have produced, they were obliged to content themselves with pocketing the affront. There is a remarkable thing at CHARD. A variety of small streams contribute to form a bason in one of its streets, and this curious circumstance attends it. A person, by barring or baying one of the little rivulets with the foot as it bubbles along, may at will direct it either into the English or the Bristol channel. What pity that people who understand so well to bar the bubble should be taken in by the quaker.

In this place it will be material to notice that, from motives of public spirit, and with a view to accomplish a great national benefit, it is proposed, and it

will certainly be carried into execution to establish a material and most advantageous alteration in the great western road, which will create a saving of one twelfth in the distance between ANDOVER and HONITON and one tenth between EXETER and BATH. The present road from ANDOVER through SALISBURY, BLANDFORD, DORCHESTER, BRIDPORT, and AXMINSTER, to HONITON, is ninety-two miles and a half; the proposed road through AMESBURY, DEPTFORD, WINCANTON, ILCHESTER, and ILMINSTER, to HONITON, will be no more than eighty-five miles and a half, and thus the saving will be seven miles besides the great advantage of avoiding all the steep hills, some of which, particularly those between DORCHESTER and AXMINSTER are unfaithful and intolerably tedious. The collateral benefit of the saving between EXETER and BATH will arise from pursuing the road from HONITON, to ILMINSTER, ILCHESTER, and then turning off to CANNARD'S GRAVE, making the whole distance seventy-five miles, instead of going round by TAUNTON as usual, which lengthens the way to eighty-two miles and a half. In the note underneath, will come an official estimate of the expence, and in a plate opposite here will be shewn the plan with all its particulars very sensibly and accurately laid down. The whole has been furnished to me by means of our kind friend PALMER, and by the consent of Lord HEATHFIELD; who, in conjunction with other gentlemen of landed property in the neighbourhood, has very greatly to his honour, lent his influence to promote so beneficial and noble an undertaking.*

* ESTIMATE of the EXPENCE of the NEW ROAD to be made between HONITON and ILMINSTER.

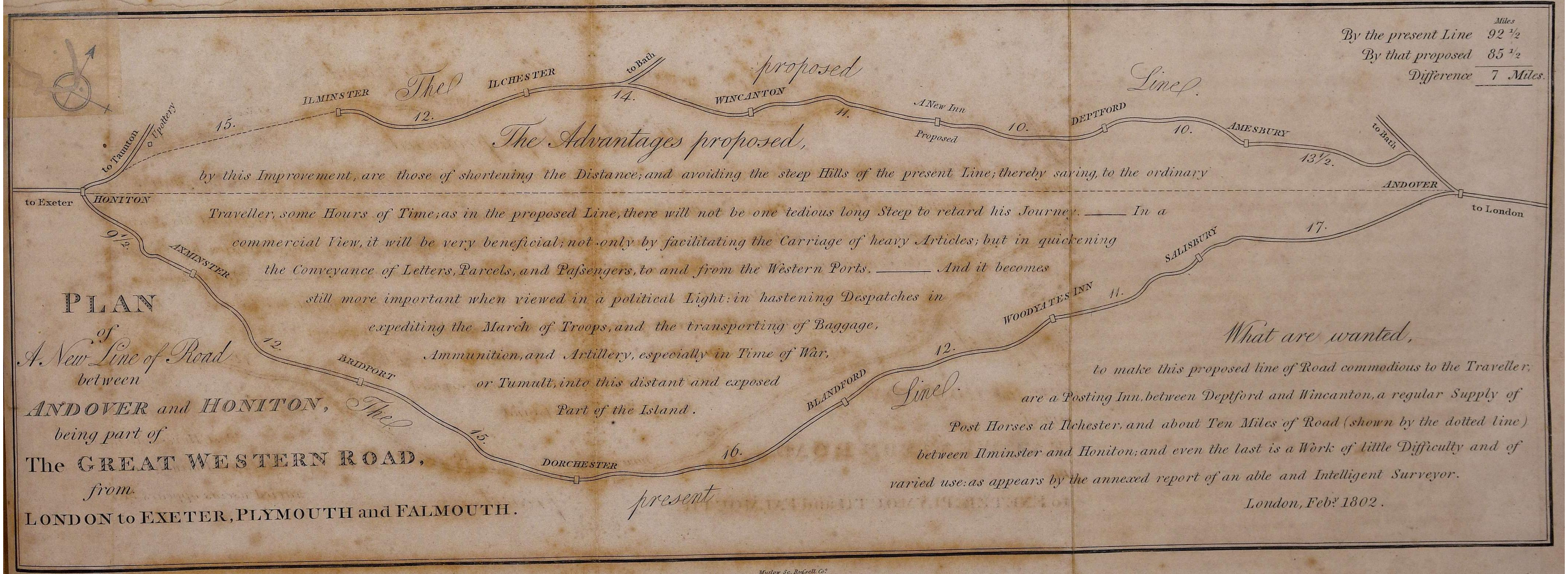
The New Road will not exceed eleven miles, and I am of opinion that ten will be found sufficient; and as it will go through a country full of inexhaustible quarries of flints and gravel, the cartage of materials, to make and keep the road in repair, will be found easy. One stone arch, over the river YAR, in a part where the stream is small, being near its source, is the only bridge required.

The road may be formed and made, at about	1000
Purchase of land, for the same, about	50
Building the bridge, about	250
Total	£1300

I am of opinion that £1300. is the utmost the whole can cost, and that no part of the road, if properly laid out will rise above three inches to a yard; which is a fair trotting road for a chaise and pair, going either way.

Axminster. W. BOND.

Feb. 22, 1802.



Mutlow Sc. Russell Ct.

I find no uncommon plants that grow in SOMERSETSHIRE, though there may be some varieties of those which are otherwise peculiar to other places. The white beam tree, *sorbus alpina,* is a variety of the service tree. It grows opposite St. VINCENT'S rocks, so is caterach of the *asplenium.* English woody headed thistle is rather an uncommon species of the *carduus.* The dwarf cistus, meadow saffron, tufted horse-shoe vetch, spiked star of Bethlehem, Solomon's-seal, and broad-leaved indented golden rod, are to be found plentifully in SOMERSETSHIRE, and indeed almost every where else. I purposely omit any notice of the Glastonbury thorn.

HALES, an eminent divine of the church of ENGLAND, and generally distinguished by the title of ever memorable, was born at BATH. To shew, however, that our church proves too often an indulgent mother, like other recreant sons he alternately sinned and was forgiven. He was at one time attached to CALVIN, then became an Armenian, and afterwards wrote a work concerning the nature of schism, which was warmly resented by LAUD, Archbishop of CANTERBURY, and thus if they mean to give him the title of an ever memorable mischief maker, he seems to have merited it. He lived in turbulence and died in obscurity. ROBINS, an eminent mathematician, was also born at BATH. He was a quaker, and received but an indifferent education, and therefore, says his biographer, he had a contempt of human learning, and yet in the same sentence he is allowed to have possessed a most transcendant natural genius, a coincidence perfectly ridiculous and completely impossible, for no one possessed of transcendant natural genius ever yet held human learning in contempt. That he might acquire from nature more than it was possible to receive from the instructions of a master is easily understood ; but that the instructions of a master were not capable of serving and assisting the best flights of his genius is nonsense and absurdity. His works, however, give the lie to the assertion, for among other things he wrote a most profound and learned defence of NEWTON against the objections of Dr. BERKLEY.

LEWIS, a learned divine, historian, and antiquary, was born at BRISTOL. He is principally known by his life of Dr. WICKCLIFFE. BULL, a venerable prelate

and sound writer, was born at WELLS. The purpose of his life seems to have been an indefatigable study to render the doctrine of the New Testament valuable and respectable. The renowned BLAKE was a native of BRIDGEWATER. His memorable exploits, particularly the business of VAN TROMP, and the destruction of the Spanish fleet at SANTA CRUZ, will for ever grace the page of history. He was beloved by his friends and dreaded by his enemies, and the laurel planted by gratitude on his grave was watered by the tears of his countrymen. GROVE, a learned divine and an elegant writer, was born at TAUNTON. He had considerable abilities, which he exercised in common with the wits of his day. His writings are valuable, and a specimen of them may be found in the five-hundred and eighty-eighth, the six-hundred and first, the six-hundred and twenty-sixth, and the six-hundred and thirty fifth papers in the Spectator.

DYER, twenty-four years Chief Justice of the Common-Pleas, was born at ROUNDHILL. His reports are well known and highly esteemed. CUDWORTH, was a native of ALLER. SHAFTSBURY styles him an excellent and learned divine of the highest character at home and fame abroad. The compliment would have been more to his honour perhaps had it come from one whose religious sentiments were less exceptionable. MUSGROVE, physician and antiquary, was born at CHARLETON MUSGROVE. The philosophical transactions which were published by him and his medical essays are well known. Archbishop SHELDON was born at STANTON. He was a man of learning, piety and prudence, and seems like GANGANELLI through the medium of charity and munificence to have made religion winning and morality respectable. DANIEL, of whom so much has been said as a writer, but who is now recollected by little more than having been poet laureat to JAMES the Second, was born at a village near TAUNTON. Mrs. ROWE, equally celebrated for her poetry and her fanaticism, was a native of ILCHESTER. To this intelligence I shall add that the acute and profound ROGER BACON, learned almost to incomprehensibility, was born at ILCHESTER; that the charming and natural FIELDING, equally gay and moral, was a native of a place called SHARPHAM-PARK, near GLASTONBURY, and the great and philo-

sophic LOCKE, bold, original and enlightened, was born at WRINGTON. Of such men the little I have said will shew what I feel; had I said more I should perhaps have felt what I should not have been able to have expressed. I am, with thanks for the continuance of your solicitude,

My dear Sir,

Leicester-Place, most truly yours,

March 18, 1802. C. DIBDIN

	London	Yeovil	Wincaunton	Wells	Wellington	Watchel	Taunton	Stowy	Shepton Mallet	Somerton	Pensford	Minehead	Langport	Ilminster	Ilchester	Glastonbury	Frome	Dunster	Dulverton	Crewkern	Chard	Bruton	Bristol	Bridgewater	Bath
Thurs. Axbridge to	134	23	13	13	42	39	35	31	27	18	26	46	31	40	43	19	30	44	54	40	45	26	18	23	30
† * W. & S. Bath to	107	49	31	20	56	56	49	48	33	18	11	63	37	46	36	25	13	61	68	59	68	26	12	40	
† * Th. & S. Bridgewater to	140	43	39	17	19	16	12	8	17	29	29	23	25	40	26	15	41	21	31	33	24	28	41		
† * W. & S. Bristol to	119	54	38	19	38	58	44	49	32	24	7	60	37	49	35	24	26	63	63	49	51	33			
Sat. Bruton to	109	23	5	12	38	44	31	36	13	9	26	52	17	32	18	19	12	50	55	26	35				
Mond. Chard to	140	19	35	32	20	40	13	32	19	36	42	47	14	10	24	27	48	45	33	9					
Sat. Crewkern to	132	10	26	30	29	49	22	41	17	36	42	56	23	14	14	25	39	54	42						
Sat. Dulverton to	168	58	57	48	18	18	20	26	41	53	55	15	32	33	45	28	63	13							
Frid. Dunster to	163	64	53	43	23	5	28	13	38	41	51	2	42	41	41	36	58								
Wed. Frome to	108	34	18	17	51	53	45	45	30	12	27	60	35	39	25	22									
Tues. Glastonbury to	127	25	23	5	32	28	25	20	8	10	17	35	13	25	11										
† Wed. Ilchester to	128	14	13	18	29	38	23	30	3	22	30	45	8	14											
Sat. Ilminster to	141	14	27	33	20	30	13	22	17	36	45	37	9												
Longport to	121	17	20	18	20	41	13	33	5	33	39	48													
† Wed. Minehead to	165	58	57	45	25	7	24	15	41	50	57														
Pensford to	117	54	31	12	48	45	41	37	25	16															
Frid. Shepton Mallet to	116	39	14	5	43	45	36	37	19																
Tues. Somerton to	126	17	16	13	24	33	17	25																	
Tues. Stowy to	149	39	41	28	27	8	20																		
† W. & S. Taunton to	139	29	32	27	3	28																			
Sat. Watchel to	[illegible]	47	48	38	32																				
Thurs. Willington to	146	38	40	34																					
† * W. & S. Wells to	120	27	19																						
Wed. Wincaunton to	[illegible]	[illegible]																							

SOMERSETSHIRE.

Table of Distances in SOMERSETSHIRE. Corporation towns, governed each by a Mayor and Aldermen, are distinguished thus *, boroughs thus †, the market days are marked against the names of the towns. There are in addition two for MELBOURN PORT and two for the county, making in all eighteen.

LETTER LXXXIV.

HAMPSHIRE.

JOHN SHELDON, Esq.

MY DEAR SIR,

I KNOW not if you are much acquainted with HAMPSHIRE. Having, however, got hold of you again as a correspondent, I shall for my own sake beg you to accompany me to the very end of my journey, especially as you have testified so kind an opinion of my work, and encouraged me to pursue it with vigour to the last. I have also a motive, though an inferior one. You are a good seaman, and I shall be obliged in this letter to descant a little on nautical matters.

HAMPSHIRE is my native county, for I was born at SOUTHAMPTON. I am not, however, though it has many singular and striking beauties, particularly attached to it on that account; and, though hares are said to return to their forms to die, and there are a most wonderful number of instances of those who have been under the influence of this infatuation from HENRY the Fourth, who died in the JERUSALEM CHAMBER, by way of proxy for the holy land, to VOLTAIRE, who came from GENEVA to die at PARIS, and that he might finish his last moments with *eclat*, performed a most miserable farce, by way of appearing a convert to that religion of which it had been the study of his life to make a mockery, I really think, and

indeed am firmly convinced, that, though chance may convey me to SOUTHAMPTON, I certainly shall never go there expressly for any such purpose.

HAMPSHIRE is bounded on the north by BERKSHIRE, on the east by SURRY and SUSSEX, on the south by the British Channel, and on the west by DORSETSHIRE and WILTSHIRE. It extends sixty-four miles in length from north to south, thirty-six in breadth from east to west, and, exclusive of the ISLE OF WIGHT, is a hundred and fifty miles in circumference. It is divided into twenty-nine hundreds, in which are contained the city of WINCHESTER and twenty market towns. It lies in the province of CANTERBURY and diocese of WINCHESTER, contains about two hundred and sixty parishes, and sends twenty-six members to parliament.

The principal rivers are the Avon, the Tese, and the Itching. The Avon, as I have already noticed, rises in WILTSHIRE and passes through SALISBURY, where it begins to be navigable. It enters HAMPSHIRE at a village called CHARFORD, and running southward from RINGWOOD to CHRISTCHURCH, it receives the Stour from DORSETSHIRE, and then falls into the British Channel. The Tese, or Test, rises in the north part of HAMPSHIRE, and running southward, forms several islands at STOCKBRIDGE; and, after passing by RUMSEY, falls into an arm of the sea called SOUTHAMPTON BAY, which reaches several miles up the country. The Itching has its source at CHILTON CANDOVER, a village near ALRESFORD, from whence it runs south-west to the city of WINCHESTER, thence it takes a course directly south, and discharges itself into SOUTHAMPTON BAY. We are told that this river was made navigable at the time of WILLIAM the Norman, a matter of no very great consequence. It certainly is a beautiful river, and the influx of the tide gives it a majestic appearance, from ITCHING FERRY on to NORTHAM, that few rivers can exceed.

As to the Saxons, the Danes, and the exploits of HENGIST, I shall entirely pass them by. I had all such circumstances by heart when I was ten years old, and I remember they tired me to death. The air of HAMPSHIRE is pure and healthy, especially on the DOWNS, which extend across the county from east to west, and divide it nearly into two equal parts. It has been observed that the vapours in

the low grounds near the sea are not so pernicious as in other counties, and a historian compliments this part of the county by saying that it is more healthy than ESSEX and KENT, which is really more a compliment than the truth, for opposite the SOUTHAMPTON river, about HITHE and FAWLEY, and the parish of DIBDIN, the ague is too well known; and, when the fishermen and peasants, for the smugglers, unlike LEAR, seem to be ague proof, are seized by it, they call it, by way of a quaint word, catching Jack.

Except, however, in these parts, it is certainly a healthy and most beautiful county. and has the best character of what are called English views of any place I know, which is pretty evident from the landscapes of the SMITHS of CHICHESTER and TULL. The horned cattle have nothing remarkable, but the sheep and hogs are supposed to excell all others. It has more wood, especially oak, than any other county of its dimensions in ENGLAND. I saw about twenty years ago a thousand oaks, not far from BASINGSTOKE, marked for felling; the price was averaged at ten pounds a piece, and about eleven years ago the same number of young ones marked out the place of them. The very mention of the NEW FOREST will instantly induce a belief of this report relative to its woods. HAMPSHIRE is well supplied by game of all kinds, exclusive of that which resorts to SOUTHAMPTON in the watering season, and the prodigious quantities of fish would glut the markets, were it not that the TORBAY boats have a knack of going on to BILLINGSGATE, and the land carriages bespeak the prime and leave the refuse. I remember when oysters were three-halfpence a hundred, and prawns six-pence; mackarel four-pence a dozen, and whitings two-pence; now a single mackarel costs six-pence, and a whiting four-pence; but this is not peculiar to HAMPSHIRE; DEVONSHIRE is getting on pretty well.

SOUTHAMPTON, in which place I passed the first eight years of my life, and which I visited occasionally till I was fifteen, is certainly a very charming place, and the approach to it, in particular from WINCHESTER, is considered as one of the handsomest effects in ENGLAND. Anciently it was certainly a very inconsiderable place, and but for GUERNSEY and JERSEY, and the business of thinning portwine, and a few other keen tricks in the revenue way, it certainly could not so

early have grown into the consequence it really possessed as long as I can remember. Now, indeed, owing to the prodigious concourse of visitors in different bathing seasons, who have been I believe occasionally sweated as well as bathed, and the large number of genteel families who have made it a regular residence, it is truly a place of considerable opulence.

SOUTHAMPTON is a town and county of itself, and all capital offences committed within its district are triable there only, and one of the judges upon these occasions comes from WINCHESTER expressly for the purpose of delivering their gaol when any offenders of this description are confined in it, a ceremony, were it not that there may be want of policy in disturbing old customs, that for ought I can see would be more honoured in the breach than the observance; for it is inconvenient, it creates expence, and the ends of justice would be perhaps as well obtained were it to be administered at its general and regular seat. The

* The origin of a very considerable family in SOUTHAMPTON sprung from a curious circumstance. A cion from the original root of this family ran away and went to sea. His family, though a mediocre trader, would not be reconciled to him, and he found no friend in his native place but the landlord of an alehouse at which he used to regale with his messmates on his arrival after his different trips. He came ashore one evening, and, upon asking after supper to turn in, he was told that the room he had usually slept in was haunted. He treated the intelligence with perfect indifference; and, though he was told that a figure came all in white every night and undrew the curtains, he insisted upon going to his old birth. He had not been an hour in bed when certainly a figure all in white undrew the curtains. It appeared to be a female, and JACK was just come ashore. It may be supposed therefore that he was not under any very terrible apprehensions. It turned out to be the landlord's daughter, who had walked in her sleep. It is unnecessary and improper to go into particulars. She was roused from her slumber and at length a right understanding took place. He declared in the morning that he had seen no ghost, and for the few days he remained ashore a kind intercourse continued between the lovers, who swore eternal constancy to each other, and agreed to be married when he shonld arrive from his next voyage, which he expected would yield him something handsome, for the father was avaricious, and they were afraid to broach the secret at once. At his return from his next voyage he found his friend the landlord very melancholy, and upon pressing him to disclose the cause, he after some hesitation informed his friend that his reputation was destroyed, that his daughter was with child, and could not be prevailed upon to discover who was the father. Honest JACK, though he privately hugged himself at this news, condoled with the old man, who encouraged by his kindness, after some hesitation proposed to him to marry the girl, promising to make him master of a trading vessel. The remainder of the story tells itself. The deceit was cunningly carried on both sides, the daughter was made an honest woman, JACK made two or three successful voyages, till, at length the father died and left to his young grandson a handsome fortune, which by smuggling, and trading, and selling beer he had amassed. This story I heard from my father. The grandson was an old man in my remembrance; many branches of the family were then alive, and were rich and respectable.

High-Street is handsome and spacious, and holds out a friendly and hospitable welcome to strangers, who certainly will be gratified with the town and its vicinity, especially if they should be properly furnished with a sterling passport; but to say the truth, the pleasure deserves a good price, for it is beautiful every where, and cannot fail to give satisfaction to both the curious and fashionable traveller, from BELLEVUE built by the famous St. ANDRE, whose memory will be celebrated as long as the story of the rabbits shall be recollected, to all those artificial and natural embellishments which grace the surrounding shore where the fair bathers reprove the saucy waves to as little effect as did CANUTE when he was flattered by his courtiers.

WINCHESTER, like a plain old friend, is full of sincerity and heartiness, which is a handsomer compliment to it than an enumeration of the various claims it has to a distinction consecrated by antiquity, in which stands very forward the Winchester bushel, which has been the equitable standard of meterage throughout the kingdom ever since the days of ALFRED, to which may be added by way of collateral proof, that the see is the richest in the kingdom, in consequence of having gathered like a snow-ball from a very remote period, which induced ELENDON, the favourite of EDWARD the Third, to keep it in preference to being made an archbishop, archly observing, that though CANTERBURY was the highest rack, WINCHESTER had the best manger. WILLIAM of WICKHAM, when he was bishop, obtained for this see that the bishops of WINCHESTER should be chancellors to the archbishops of CANTERBURY, and prelates of the order of the garter.

The cathedral is so stupendous a building, that it appears as if the workmen had been tired and left off before the design of the architect was completed, or that it had been cast in a mould, and patted down before it was dry. Certainly with its squat tower, and its immense body, nothing can be more the reverse of symetry. The workmanship however within, amply makes up the deficiency. It is impossible for any thing to be more rich or nobly wrought than the different objects in the choir, the chapel, and the monuments which ornament this cathedral, a description of which, though warm and at length, might yet do injustice to the subject. For my own part, I know of course every particular, for in this

cathedral and in the college I passed as it were six years of my life. The college is again a most noble structure, and has perfected many ornaments of their country; but it has also to my knowledge given proof, in common indeed with all other seminaries, that dulness and pedantry are sometimes rather confirmed than cured by public schools.

It was my intention to have gone into the mischief which the French emigrants have in some degree done, by endeavouring to obtain proselytes in the neighbourhood, which remarks however could have been only secondary to those which are so admirably and so honestly held out by the author of the Pursuits of Literature. I should certainly have supported my arguments, with some facts which might here have been in place, but the war appears to be at an end, for at the moment I am writing the Definitive Treaty is shortly expected; and, as it is the character of the English not more to love folly than to embrace conviction, it were useless to guard them against a fallacy which truth and reason have taught them to detect. But I am exceeding my limits and therefore shall not be able to give more of HAMPSHIRE, except casually, than a concise account of PORTSMOUTH and the ISLE of WIGHT.

I shall give no historical account of the ISLE of WIGHT, but shall simply say that it is included in HAMPSHIRE, that its three principal towns are NEWPORT, COWES, and YARMOUTH, that its soil is in general rich and productive, and that its face is full of variety and beauty. The scenery, however, is by no means of the extraordinary kind. It is not sylvan enough for the simple, it is not noble enough for the grand, or terrific enough for the romantic. It is however, diversified, and in many respects beautiful. Its great merit is local singularity, and certainly painters who go for finishing more than for composition may there find plenty of opportunities to indulge that propensity; but for those advantages which lend celebrity to a broad and grand style of painting, it loses materially; and, when compared to the wild beauty of the north of DEVONSHIRE, and the west of YORKSHIRE, the diversified magnificence of WESTMORELAND, the daring boldness of CUMBERLAND, and the majestic grandeur of SCOTLAND, the distinction is eminently considerable and nothing can prove the fact more completely than the

visits of the inhabitants at the back of the rocks to catch puffins, compared with the atchievements of the CUMBERLAND peasants upon EAGLE CRAG.

As to the produce of the ISLE OF WIGHT, though there certainly is immense plenty, yet nature seems to have done more for them than they are willing to do for themselves; but indeed they have more callings to follow than farming. Surrounded as they are by the sea, and commanding as it were in themselves a kind of nursery of pilots and ship-builders, the greater part of the inhabitants have much more to do, either immediately or collaterally, with ploughing the ocean than their fields; and, as to one particular part of voyages, or rather trips, it was a remark of my honest friend whom I have spoken of in my description of the SCILLY ISLES, that for landing goods privately or expeditiously, there was not such a fine fellow in the world as a COWES-man; to which he would add, that in a chace he would beat the revenue hollow; "for," said he, "if any rope was to "get foul, if he can't cast un off he'll cut un;" and I appeal to the whole fraternity if any thing can be expressed more technically.

But with all these avocations, so favoured are they by nature, that their harvests in general are astonishing, and they have been known to grow seven times as much corn as they could consume. When I was there early in the month of September 1800, they had just begun to cut down their corn, which was astonishingly abundant; they were nevertheless in possession of enough for three years in their barns and granaries, and yet the cry there, as well as every where else, was scarcity. Those who wish to take a tour of the ISLE OF WIGHT will not repent their curiosity; the towns are clean and comfortable, NEWPORT in particular, provision is good and abundant, the views perpetually vary, and, though the roads are good, they will have no turnpikes to pay.

PORTSMOUTH, which has not improperly been called the key of ENGLAND, and considered as the only regularly fortified town in this kingdom, is too well known to make any particular description of it necessary. The great natural advantages of PORTSMOUTH and SPITHEAD, as a harbour and a riding for a navy, are not, I should apprehend, to be equalled in the world. The harbour is so situated that

no weather can injure the ships at anchor in it, which may have shelter there to a most incredible number; and as to SPITHEAD, which is about twenty miles in length, and in some places three in breadth, it is defended by all the winds that blow from the west to the south-east, by the high lands of the ISLE OF WIGHT, and from the winds of the opposite quarter by the main land of HAMPSHIRE, the town of PORTSMOUTH fronting the middle of the road. One circumstance most wonderfully favourable is, that the bottom is so perfectly sound and good that the flux and reflux of the tides repair all the injuries done by the anchors.

The dock-yard at PORTSMOUTH is much more extensive than that of PLYMOUTH, and, upon the whole, turns out a great deal more work. When I was at PLYMOUTH the number of hands were three thousand five hundred and seventy-two; at given times PORTSMOUTH has employed many hundreds more, but this depends upon circumstances, according as one or the other is situated nearest for the particular service on which the fleets in commission are employed. The dry docks at PLYMOUTH are by much the finest, for the reasons I have already given; but, taking the subject altogether, to speak of them comparatively would be making a sort of distinction without a difference. The stores are wonderful, so are the mechanical operations, and so are every one of those exertions which crown these astonishing arsenals as the grandest and most serviceable in the world. Not that I mean to detract from those at CHATHAM, DEPTFORD, WOOLWICH, or SHEERNESS, which are all proud national objects; but PORTSMOUTH and PLYMOUTH, from their extent and respective situations, have of course more of the active work to perform than any others, and indeed I have been more intimate with these. At PLYMOUTH I saw at two different times the forging of anchors of the first magnitude; I also saw there a seventy-four lifted, which is a process recently invented.

It is thus accomplished. A prodigious number of shores are placed under the sides of the ship intended to be raised; which done, an equal number of wedges, each six inches thick, are insinuated under them; which being by general consent struck all together, in a few minutes this immense body is raised, or lifted, by means of this very strenuous but very simple operation; so there remains a clear six inches from the bottom, for the purpose of working under the keel. At

Portsmouth I saw the process of twisting a cable, on which above a hundred men were at work at once, and at which employment the fatigue is at least as violent as that of the anchorsmiths; for, as these last are obliged to sleep between whiles to renovate their strength, so the others are compelled to work by short spells, and even then they would be completely exhausted if they were to labour more than four hours a day. They sing out, as it is technically called, as they twist the yarns, and no attempt at description that can possibly be made has power to give the faintest idea of the yell it produces. The chromatic scale, with every semi-tone divided, and all of them bellowed out together, is the nearest idea I can form of it.

It is a matter of infinite curiosity to notice the various operations in making a cable, from the spinning the yarns to the finish of the process; but every step would take an elaborate description. The simplicity of the machine by which a large number of yarns are joined together, the trunks with pullies which communicate with the house where they melt the tar, and ingenuity of the perforated block through which a sufficient number of yarns are compressed, after being dipped into the tar kettle, which department, as well as every other, is kept so astonishingly clean, a matter of infinite consequence in the progress of all the different works; all these would require both a full and a scientific description, a circumstauce not within my ability. I therefore finish with noticing that the cable of a first rate is composed of two thousand nine hundred and sixteen yarns or strands; that it is a hundred and twenty fathoms in length, and twenty-four inches in circumference.

I must not take leave of Portsmouth without doing justice on a subject which I had mistaken, as well as others. I own I always dreaded to occupy the Theatre there, for I had conceived that, in a sea-port, where it cannot be but that vice and infamy must be found, a play-house would of course exhibit every sort of riot and quarrelling. I never was so much mistaken in my life. An assembly room, regulated by a master of ceremonies, could not be better conducted. It is true prostitutes were seen there in plenty, but there was a place set apart for them, where they were obliged to conform to rules and orders or be turned out.

They did not dare to bar up the lobbies and insult modest women. Better discipline never was observed. They were permitted to be happy as long as their conduct was inoffensive, and so good an effect had this wholesome established regulation on their conduct, that, if I may judge by what I myself witnessed, there is more barefaced profligate indecency practised at DRURY-LANE or COVENT-GARDEN Theatres in an evening, than at PORTSMOUTH Theatre in a season.

The various places in HAMPSHIRE, were it possible, I should with pleasure describe. The rides near the NEW FOREST towards DORSETSHIRE, neat RINGWOOD, pretty LYMINGTON, elegant LYNDURST, as well as those rich and fertile regions beyond WINCHESTER towards BASINGSTOKE, STOCKBRIDGE, and about ANDOVER, which produce all that abundance displayed at MAUDLIN and WEYHILL fairs, I certainly could with pleasure enlarge on, I must content myself with merely finishing my task in the usual way.

There are some varieties of plants in HAMPSHIRE, but I believe nothing original. True oak fern, *dryopteris penae et lobelli*, is found near PETERSFIELD. The least English black bindweed. The bindweeds have been traced through so many varieties that they have assumed various proper names, such as Smilax, bryony, soldanel, &c. This which I am speaking of here is classically called *cissampelos*. They are all of them, however, of the convolvulus tribe, and very often local properties induce new titles. The pansy grows more beautifully in DERBYSHIRE than any where else, and therefore obtains new names from the peasants. This is called a minor plant, merely because it has dwindled from being in a poor soil. In the same kind of way might be noticed the shades of difference between plants in all different counties. I might remark that St. Peter's wort, the marsh fox-tail's grass, the low sea-heath, the sea mullow-tree, the French Mercury, the bugloss cowslips, and horned rampions, have some peculiar properties in HAMPSHIRE, but nothing could be more fallacious or idle as to reason on it.

JOHN BASINGE, commonly known by the name of JOHN of BASINGSTOKE, was born at that place. His celebrity consists in having been a great traveller, and

having introduced the Greeks numerical figures into ENGLAND. GREAVES, an eminent mathematician, was a native of COLEMORE. He was a great traveller and, having measured the pyramids at GRAND CAIRO, made a curious collection of Greek, Arabic, and Persian manuscripts, and amassed a great number of gems and other antiquities, he came home, and found himself turned out of his lectureship at GRESHAM COLLEGE.

YOUNG, the celebrated author of Night Thoughts, of whom I have already spoken in my *History of the Stage*, was born at UPHAM. WILLIAM of WICKHAM, an able statesman and worthy prelate, was born of mean parentage at WICKHAM. The general opinion has always been that he was a foundling, which may perhaps be a more rational way of accounting for his extraordinary talents than if he had merely been the child of a peasant. He was early in life patronized by EDWARD the Third, and having superior skill in architecture, superintended the building of WINDSOR CASTLE. At length he succeeded to the see of WINCHESTER, and was afterwards appointed lord high chancellor of ENGLAND. His colleges at WINCHESTER and at OXFORD are noble foundations. The study of his life was to diffuse universally goodness, and so brilliant were his endowments, and so indefatigable his industry to disseminate knowledge and virtue, that the influence of his precepts and examples will be felt and cherished for ages.

Yours very truly,

and with the warmest esteem,

Leicester-Place,

C. DIBDIN.

March 24, 1802.

	Alton	Andover	Basingstoke	Christchurch	Fareham	Gosport	Lymington	Newport, I. W.	Peterfield	Portsmouth	Ringwood	Romsey	Southampton	Stockbribge	Winchester	London
Th. Alresford to	10	18	13	44	20	25	33	42	8	28	37	19	18	15	7	57
Sat. Alton to		27	11	54	26	31	43	48	13	34	47	28	28	25	17	47
† Sat. Andover to			20	41	35	40	44	50	32	41	34	25	26	71	14	63
* Wed. Basingstoke to				52	36	41	44	59	24	45	45	23	30	22	18	45
* † Mon. Christchurch to					37	42	12	21	51	40	9	24	30	39	37	97
Wed. Fareham to						5	30	24	21	4	42	24	17	30	21	73
Sat. Gosport to							29	19	18	1	38	31	23	35	26	81
† Sat. Lymington to								15	32	22	15	17	13	35	26	78
† * Newport, Isle of W. to									38	20	23	33	24	43	36	94
† * Sat. Petersfield to										19	44	27	24	28	18	52
† * Th. Portsmouth to											41	28	25	37	27	70
Wed. Ringwood to												18	19	20	28	91
Sat. Romsey to													7	18	9	73
† * Tu. Th. & S. Southampton to														19	12	77
† Thurs. Stockbridge to															9	66
† * W. & S. Winchester to																65

HAMPSHIRE.

Table of Distances in HAMPSHIRE. Corporation towns, governed each by a Mayor and Aldermen, are distinguished thus *, boroughs thus †. Market towns have their days placed before them. YARMOUTH and NEWPORT, in the Isle of WIGHT, and WHITCHURCH send members to parliament, which with those for the county make up twenty-six.

LETTER LXXXV.

SURRY.

JOHN SHELDON, Esq.

MY DEAR SIR,

SURRY, which takes its name from the Saxon words Suth, South, and Rea, a river, a matter however of no very great moment, is a charming and diversified county. It is bounded on the east by KENT; on the south by SUSSEX; on the west by BERKSHIRE and HAMPSHIRE; and on the north by MIDDLESEX. It extends thirty-eight miles in length from east to west, twenty-three in breadth from north to south, and is a hundred and twelve miles in circumference. It is divided into thirteen hundreds. It lies in the province of CANTERBURY and diocese of WINCHESTER, contains thirteen market-towns, about a hundred and forty-five parishes, and sends fourteen members to parliament.

The rivers are the Thames, the Mole, the Wey, and the Wandle. I shall reserve my description of the Thames for MIDDLESEX. The Mole, by some called the Swallow, proceeds from several united springs in the hundred of RYEGATE, makes on towards DORKING, near which place that it may be entitled to its name, it hides itself under ground for about the space of a mile. It re-appears near LEATHERHEAD, and from thence passing to COBHAM, it falls into the Thames near HAMPTON-COURT. Authors have differed from this account, and supposed

this river to have been entirely lost at the place it disappears, and that its apparent re-appearance arises from a new source near LEATHERHEAD. If it were worth while the truth of this might be easily ascertained. The Wey rises near ALTON in HAMPSHIRE, and enters SURRY at FRENSHAM, from whence it runs to GODALMING, afterwards to GUILDFORD, and then to WOKING. It then divides into two branches, which pursue different courses, till at length they join and fall into the Thames near WEYBRIDGE. This river is navigable from the Thames to GODALMING, and by that means it supplies the inhabitants of the south-west part of SURRY with coals and many necessaries from LONDON. The Wandle rises from a spring at CARSHALTON, near CROYDON, and turning for some time west and afterwards north, falls into the Thames near WANDSWORTH.

Among the mineral waters in SURRY, EPSOM has been famous as well in that as all its collateral advantages, and so has the Dog and Duck in St. GEORGE'S FIELDS, which has been by some considered as created by a composition in the nature of the French artificial chalybeats. JESSOP'S-WELL, two miles from COBHAM, has been in some degree celebrated, so has the spring at COBHAM, and so has that at STREATHAM, but the virtue of the water has nothing to do with it; these trips are not far enough off, and the great convenience of EPSOM-WELLS formerly, when business was tranacted with such ease, on account of the short distance from town, that families could be as comfortable together as at their country seats, would now be vulgar and unfashionable. To enjoy real family comfort now the husband must go a hundred miles one way, and the wife two hundred miles another.

Situated as I am I can have but very little to notice of SURRY. To say that it is a most rich and desirable approach to LONDON in every direction, that the roads are lined with beautiful gardens and handsome houses; that every where within an hour's walk or ride of the ROYAL EXCHANCE, neighhourhoods are formed, grounds laid out, shrubberies planted, and that PECKHAM, CAMBERWELL and CLAPHAM COMMON hold the elegant retreats of the opulent and the industrious, would convey nothing more than might be easily conceived by remote readers,

and for those nearer home it would only be reminding them of what they witness every day. I shall therefore dispense with going into an account of the BOROUGH, with all its churches and hospitals, of the newly created world in St. GEORGE'S FIELDS, spreading itself into so many directions that it seems equally difficult to decide how it can find inhabitants or the inhabitants money, I shall not speak of the sweet prospects about CHERTSEY, GODALMING, and RYEGATE, or even RICHMOND, with its pagoda and the Gothic palace now building, which will serve for ages as a specimen of our sovereign's admirable taste, nor indeed shall I go any further into this theme, for if I did it would be endless, I shall only desire all strangers to believe that it possesses in addition to its own requisites, all that wealth and talents can give it, and that it is one great source of benefit and pleasure to the sons of industry in the metropolis. To give an idea of the scenery in SURRY, I shall introduce here an effect near COBHAM.

There are some uncommon plants which grow wild in SURRY. The sweet-smelling flag, or calamus. It is an *acorus*, and of course a species of cane or sedge, and related to the iris. The greater tooth-wort, *dentaria major*. LINNEUS counts three, and MILLER four species of this plant. Tooth-wort is a name also given to the *plombago*, or lead-wort. This last is in the nature of pellitory of SPAIN, and has been applied for the tooth-ach, and therefore has obtained the name of tooth-wort; but it is of a hot and caustic nature, and very different both in form and operation from the *dentaria*. Water-mint of a spicy smell, *mentha arvensis verticullata folio rotundiore odore aromatico*. This is a very scarce plant, which seems to be all its merit. There are many varieties introduced into gardens that are much more spicy.

Crested cow-wheat, is a variety of the *melampyrum*. Self-heal, *prunella vulgaris*. This plant is said to be useful in gargles for putrid ulcers. Self-heal is also a name given to the *sanicle*. Wild rue, and wild thyme grow plentifully in SURRY. The wild rue is more acrimonious than the cultivated, otherwise there is very little difference in their qualities. The wild thyme is celebrated as excellent

fodder for sheep and deer, and therefore is very much sown in parks and enclosures. Thorough wax, *perfoliata vulgaris.* This is the same with hare's-ear. It is of course a rare plant for there is but one species known, and that is natively from the CANARIES. I can find nothing of its qualities. The other plants are mountain rampion, chickling vetch, toad flax, one of the autumnal gentians, black thorn, wood pease, bird's foot, and others, all common, except perhaps some little distinction in form and colour.

SHERLOCK, an eminent divine was born in the BOROUGH, and will be known as long as the comfortable misery infused into the mind of tipsy devotees by him and DRELINCOURT shall relieve the homilies and the hymns of the tabernacle. BURNET says, that he was a clear, a strong, and a polite writer, but apt to assume too much and to treat his adversaries with contempt. Sir JOHN LEAKE, a brave and successful admiral, was born at ROTHERHITHE. He shared considerable honour with Sir GEORGE ROOKE, and others, particularly in the reduction of GIBRALTER BARCELONA, CARTHAGENA, MAJORCA, and MINORCA. The elegant and accomplished St. JOHN, Lord BOLINGBROKE, was a native of BATTERSEA. His reputation as an orator, the share he had in settling the peace of UTRECHT, his discomfiture in consequence of attempting to supplant HARLEY, his engaging in the cause of the Pretender, his being restored to his family inheritance, all which perhaps generated in his mind the fine saying he made POPE a present of, which VOLTAIRE ridicules in his Candide, insisting that instead of wording it, "whatever is is right," it ought to have been "whatever is is best," are well known. The left handed legacy he bequeathed to MALLET in his works, was of a piece with the rest of his conduct. They were an attack on revealed religion, and therefore censured by all true friends to christianity.

HAMMOND, Bishop of WORCESTER, a most learned and pious divine was born at CHERTSEY. ABBOT, Archbishop of CANTERBURY in the seventeenth century was a native of GUILDFORD, and born of low parentage. He is known by his piety and his learning, but more by the fine story of his mother's dream, which was that if she could eat a pike her child would be a son and grow to great preferment.

The pike was miraculously procured, for she dipped it out of the river accidentally in a pail of water. The story was circulated; the child was befriended, countenanced and put to school, and, inheriting a spice of his mother's wit, became at length an archbishop. DUDLEY, son of Queen ELIZABETH's Earl of LEICESTER, who was a great but an unfortunate man, the particulars of which I cannot here go into, was born at SHEEN. SANCROFT, Archbishop of CANTERBURY was born at FRESINGFIELD. He was a pious and exemplary character.

Leicester-Place, Yours, most truly and heartily,

March 18, 1802. C. DIBDIN.

	Croydon	Dorking	Egham	Epsom	Ewell	Farnham	Haslemere	Godalming	Guildford	Kingston	Sutton	London
Cobham to	14	20	18	7	9	21	22	14	10	7	12	18
Sat. Croydon to		17	18	28	7	36	39	29	25	10	4	10
Thurs. Dorking to			23	9	11	23	20	17	13	15	14	24
Egham to				18	16	21	33	26	22	11	18	19
Epsom to					2	29	30	21	17	7	5	14
Thurs. Ewell to						31	35	27	23	5	3	12
Thurs. Farnham to							10	10	12	29	32	39
Tues. Haslemere to								8	13	42	33	41
Sat. Godalming to									4	22	16	32
Sat. Guildford to										18	12	28
Sat. Kingston to											8	10
Sutton to												11

SURRY.

Table of distances in SURRY. GUILDFORD is the only town governed by a Mayor and Aldermen. The members are two for the county, two each for the borough of SOUTHWARK, GUILDFORD, RYEGATE, HASLEMERE, BLECHINGLY and GATTON.

LETTER LXXXVI.

OXFORDSHIRE.

JOHN SHELDON, Esq.

MY DEAR SIR,

It would have given me particular pleasure, especially in a letter addressed to you, if I could have taken a large and extensive review of the University of Oxford, in order to prove how much it is beyond all comparison the noblest in the world; but, as so copious a dissertation would involve a history of every other university, a matter by no means impracticable in itself but utterly impossible here, on account of the few remaining pages now left me, I must entreat you and the public to be contented with such observations as my contracted limits permit me to bring forward, in which, however, I shall attempt to make up in interest, what they may want of volume.

It is incumbent on me nevertheless to describe this county in the usual way, and therefore, putting by all vestiges of antiquity, I shall at once briefly notice that Oxfordshire is bounded on the north-east by Northamptonshire; on the north-west by Warwickshire; on the south by Berkshire; on the east by Buckinghamshire; and on the west by Gloucestershire. It extends in its greatest length about forty-two miles, and in its greatest breadth about twenty-six, and is about a hundred and thirty miles in circumference. Woodstock, which is nearly in the

center, is sixty-two miles north-west of LONDON. The county is divided into fourteen hundreds, it lies in the province of CANTERBURY, and diocese of YORK, contains one city and twelve market towns, and sends nine members to parliament.

The most considerable rivers are the Thames, or Isis, the Tame, the Charwell, the Evenlode, and the Windrush. The Thames I shall describe in my account of MIDDLESEX; but it will be proper to observe that the Thames, before the Tame falls into it, is poetically called the Isis, and that fiction has married it to the Tame, all which has been lustily disputed, and where should disputation rise but in a University? The fact is, OXFORDSHIRE has properly no river of its own. The Tame I have already described. The Charwell has its source in NORTHAMPTONSHIRE. The Evenlode rises in GLOUCESTERSHIRE, and so does the Windrush. OXFORDSHIRE, however, boasts the influence of them all, and, besides the various directions in which they stream through that county, no less than seventy inferior rivers have been enumerated by those who have written its natural history. As to mineral waters, there is one at CHADLINGTON, which seems to have the quality of that at HARROWGATE; there is one that yields a particular kind of nitre at CLIFTON; there is another still more like the HARROWGATE water at DODDINGTON; and, at SOMERTON there is a petrifying water.

OXFORDSHIRE contains a prodigious variety of curiosities, and more perhaps than many other counties; but, as it is classic ground, and every object of course produces food for the minds of those who study at the University, no wonder if its natural history has been more minutely and accurately examined. Hence we ascertain that it has the finest oker in the world, a native blue paint, a variety of umbers, an earth like bole armoniac, but not that; another earth, thought, but not ascertained, to be the same that WORMIUS calls *lac lunae*, which earth is used as a cosmetic, a little touch probably of the steatites of CORNWALL; a stone that cannot be distinguished from wood, another resembling wood half burnt, the *pyrites aureus*, or golden fire-stone; another which broken and laid in the sun, dissolves into a salt, star stones, thunder-bolt stones, which resemble the heads of arrows, stones that resemble shell-fish, others that look like a screw, and in short, an astonishing catalogue, among which are conchites, muscle-

shells, petrified sea-urchins, nautilusses, serpents, and multitudes of others, of which were I to give a particular account I should perform according to the beginning of this letter, an impossibility, I shall therefore leave all these matters to the naturalists, and go at once to OXFORD.

The approach to this noble and most charming city is every way delightful The reflection that it is the seat of that learning which ALFRED established, or if you will restored, for it is of very little consequence, whether or not it may be faintly traced to the age next succeeding the destruction of TROY, when the Trojans coming out of GREECE entered and settled in BRITAIN, or even whether it was founded by ARVIRAGUS a British king, about seventy years before CHRIST, and which has from that time forward enlightened the minds of so many eminent Englishmen, is a proud one, and the majesty, beauty and symetry of the various buildings set apart for that honorable purpose fill the mind with ideas of infinite gratification.

The appearance of OXFORD is completely different from that of CAMBRIDGE. The colleges at OXFORD adorn the city itself; at CAMBRIDGE they are all built apart. At OXFORD the neatness of the private houses receives consequence from the magnificence of the public buildings, at CAMBRIDGE the public buildings standing by themselves sink the town into insignificance. So many structures of immense grandeur as those ar OXFORD, in proportion to the ground they stand on, are not of course to be found in the world, which will easily be credited when it is considered that there are fourteen parish churches, most of which are noble structures, besides the twenty colleges, among which is included the cathedral. Of the churches it will be impossible for me to speak, I shall however give a very brief account of the colleges.

I shall not begin according to their dates, but take them just as a traveller would. St. JOHN'S COLLEGE, which lies out of the north gate at one extremity of the city, was founded by Sir THOMAS WHITE, Merchant Taylor of LONDON, in 1557. It consists of two handsome squares, which are supported with marble pillars; but, the founder having altered it in the course of his life two or three

times, the symetry is in some degree injured. He left to it three thousand pounds, which was no mean sum at the time of PHILIP and MARY. TRINITY COLLEGE was founded by Sir THOMAS POPE, Lord Mayor of LONDON, in 1555. It's effect is magnificent and simple. We are told by foreigners that the Ascension painted on the ceiling of the chapel, is equal to any thing in ITALY. The second court of the college is a spacious square, three parts of which compose apartments for the fellows and students, and the fourth opens into a garden. This building has been considerably improved by the benefactions of Dr. BATHURST, Lord SOMMERS, Bishop SHELDON and others.

BALIOL COLLEGE is very ancient, having been founded in 1268, by DEVERGILLA, the widow of BALIOL, King of SCOTLAND, who as I have already mentioned, was born at BERNARD-CASTLE in YORKSHIRE. WARNER, Bishop of ROCHESTER, settled four Scots fellowships in this college for ever. The library of this college is said to contain the best collection of ancient manuscripts of any private library in the University. NEW-COLLEGE, founded in 1374 by WILLIAM of WICKHAM. In the area of the first court is a fine pillar given by a person of the name of PARKER, and the second extends with two wings to the garden. This college is very rich, and its scholars are numerous, and enjoy some privileges distinct from the University customs, for the wisdom of this great man was eminent in every thing. His admirable statutes both for this college and that at WINCHESTER, seem to have been a model for the imitation of other founders. To say that GANGANELLI formed his conduct from WILLIAM of WICKHAM, is only in other words that one great and good mind resembles another. He was a declared enemy to religious drones, and forbad the fellows of his college, which are seventy in number, to enter the cells of the monks, and commanded them to exert themselves by the help of arts and sciences for the general good of mankind.

QUEEN'S COLLEGE was founded by ROBERT EAGLESFIELD, in 1340, for the benefit of the natives of CUMBERLAND and WESTMORELAND. This college was pulled down something more than a hundred years ago and rebuilt. It consists of large squared piazzas, and foreigners say that it would be considered as a regular and a fine building even at ROME. CHRISTCHURCH COLLEGE was founded by Cardinal WOLSEY, from

an ostentatious view of imitating WILLIAM of WICKHAM; for he at the same time intended to establish a preparatory school at IPSWICH, upon the principle of that at WINCHESTER. His disgrace hindered both. It was however finished, and nobly endowed by HENRY the Eighth in 1519.

ALL SOULS COLLEGE was founded by CHICHLEY, Archbishop of CANTERBURY, in 1437. It remains partly in its Gothic state. It has been improved by a gentleman of the name of CLARKE, and Colonel CODRINGTON, at the expence of ten thousand pounds, added a library, and furnished it with numerous books. CORPUS CHRISTI was founded by Bishop FOX, in 1513. The structure is ancient, but yet handsome and regular. Considerable additions have been made to it by Dr. TURNER. MAGDALEN COLLEGE is pleasantly situated at the other extremity of the town, and therefore composes a sort of uniformity with St. JOHN'S. The old cloister is very noble, and it is altogether spacious; but it is irregular. The walks are very fine. This being a very noble and superb college, the Catholics made a push for it under JAMES, but were repulsed with great firmness by the fellows, and this contention was the cause of sending the seven bishops to the TOWER, which induced my friends the CHARTREUX to remark to me that, whatever pretensions the clergy may make to the doctrine of non-resistance and passive obedience, when the rights of the church itself are attacked, they can and will resist as well as the laity. MAGDALEN COLLEGE was founded by Bishop PATTEN, in 1458.

These are, upon the whole, I think, the handsomest colleges. I shall, however, speak concisely of the others. UNIVERSITY COLLEGE is the oldest of all, having been founded, or as some say refounded, by ALFRED. It stands at the east gate of the city. It consists of a good square, and is handsomely endowed. EXETER COLLEGE was founded by a Bishop of EXETER, for the benefit of the western counties, in I believe 1314. It consists of two good courts, a spacious chapel, and a handsome library. ORIEL COLLEGE is said to have been founded by EDWARD the Second in 1324. It is situated on the south side of the town. It is formed of one uniform quadrangle, in which there is nothing remarkable. LINCOLN COLLEGE was founded by Bishop FLEMING, in the reign of HENRY the Fifth, 1427.

It is seated in the middle of the city, and consists of two quadrangular courts. The chapel is a handsome structure, and the windows are curiously painted. BRAZEN NOSE COLLEGE was founded in 1511 by Bishop SMITH. It has its name of BRAZEN NOSE from its being built on the site of an ancient hall dissinguished by a large brass nose upon the gate, and this you are sure to be told before you can get at any other particulars. There is nothing, however, very material to be learnt. It has two squares, a chapel, and a library.

JESUS COLLEGE, built for the Welch by HUGH PRICE in 1571, is considered, however, as a royal foundation, Queen ELIZABETH having furnished the timber. It fronts EXETER COLLEGE, and the building consists of two courts, in one of which is the chapel, and in the other the library. WADHAM COLLEGE was founded by NICHOLAS WADHAM, a private gentleman, who endowed it a plentiful estate and a body of good statutes. This is a remarkably neat and handsome buildinge. It consists of one noble quadrangle, about a hundred and thirty feet square; the number of students of every kind amount to about a hundred. PEMBROKE COLLEGE was founded by a Mr. TISDALE in 1624; but the charter was granted to the Earl of PEMBROKE, at that time chancellor of the university. It is seated on the south side of the city, and consists of two courts; the first small, neat, and uniform; the other large and irregular. WORCESTER COLLEGE was originally called GLOUCESTER HALL, from its being at that time a seminary for educating the monks of GLOUCESTER. It fell into the hands of HENRY the Eighth, was afterwards given to Queen ELIZABETH, and thus it went from owner to owner, without any particular appropriation, till at length it was purchased by Sir THOMAS WHITE, and through him made a house for students; but after that, being endowed by Sir THOMAS COOKE of ASTLEY, it was, in 1714, erected into a college, and called WORCESTER COLLEGE. It is seated in the western suburb upon an eminence on the banks of the Thames.

Besides these colleges, there are HARTFORD COLLEGE, founded in 1312, and MERTON COLLEGE in 1261. There are also five halls, and the RADCLIFFIAN library. The Theatre, the ASHMOLEAN Museum, and the CLARENDON Printing-house, are

all noble structures. The public schools, one of which belongs to every college, are placed together, and form the ground apartments of a very large and magnificent quadrangle, the principal front of which is on the outside a hundred and seventy-five feet in length; but it is impossible for me to go into so many various particulars. I shall therefore say nothing further on the subject of this university than to express the sorrow I feel that it cannot, for I suppose it cannot, operate so as to embrace all the purposes suggested by that wisdom, and carried into execution by that magnificence, which dictated such admirable institutions.

Surely it ought to be possible, during the short space taken for the terms, that the exactest order should be kept, and all that time, so precious to the interest and welfare of the student, should be soberly and industriously employed. Instead of this, unfortunately the inns in term time are constantly filled with riots, and one would think that fathers sent their sons to the university to plunge them into extravagance, and disqualify them for the sttdy of every thing but profligacy and brutality. I speak through the knowledge of what I saw fourteen years ago, when the etiquette of rioting was estimated; when the price of a waiter's broken head was two guineas, breaking knees of a horse three; when a troop of Italian singers were invited into the town against the express order of the vice-chancellor, and when the mayor, who soberly remonstrated with them upon their outrageous conduct, was struck by one of the students. These are the circumstances which will always operate as a drawback upon our universities and in favour of those in SCOTLAND, for a Scotchman is too much an economist of his time to idle it away improvidently.

I am now arrived so near to the end of my work, that, having yet BUCKINGHAM and MIDDLESEX to review, I shall not be able to say more of OXFORDSHIRE than to speak of its plants and its celebrated characters. As to the first, the lists I have already given seems to have nearly exhausted all the proper names, and left me only a few varieties. Pimpernels we have had in plenty; there is one with a blue flower grows near OXFORD. Hellebores and crane's

bills we have already seen. Pearl wort, hore-hound, march violet, white-berried elder; all these have been described. There are a few others equally as uninteresting.

Sir JOHN HOLT, the celebrated Lord Chief Justice of the Court of King's Bench, was born at THAME. His eminent reputation is too well known to need notice either here or in any other production. Bishop COOPER was born at OXFORD. He was first a physician and afterwards a divine. He went through all the gradations of translation, and was at last Bishop of WINCHESTER. HARRIOT, a native of OXFORD, was a great mathematician, and invented the notation now universally used in Algebra. He wrote some comments on DES CARTES, which are said to have been very valuable. CHILLINGWORTH, a learned writer and eminent divine of the seventeenth century, was also a native of OXFORD. He seems to have been a weak man, having leaned to the popishh religion, and afterwards abjured it. His works are well known, and are spoken of very creditably. POCOCK, a very celebrated master of oriental learning, was born at OXFORD. His works, consisting of six thousand Arabic Proverbs, and other curious things, are greatly extolled by those who either know, or pretend to know, the eastern languages. D'AVENANT, whose life I have given in the *History of the Stage*, was born at OXFORD.

PHILIPS, rather an elegant than a great poet, was born at BAMPTON. His Splendid Shilling, and his Poem upon Cyder, were both popular. He got however, after this, into a style which would have probably established for him a good reputation, had not death put a stop to his exertions, which were certainly respectable, in his thirty-second year. HEYLIN, who worked his passage through the stage to the church, was born at BURFORD. He first wrote plays, afterwards sermons, and at length a variety of things, large in number, but in value very inconsiderable. His Cosmography is the most esteemed. DRAYTON, the poet, of whom I have already spoken, and whose works, such as they are, procured him some reputation, was born at HARSHULL. CARLETON, who was created by CHARLES the First Viscount DORCHESTER, and who wrote some celebrated political tracts, was born at BALDWIN-BRIGHTWALL. CROFT, who turned papist, afterwards ab-

jured that religion and resumed his own, and who wrote a book called the Naked Truth, which was intended to reconcile protestants of every description, was a native of GREAT MILTON. I shall finish this account, for want of a better subject, with the infamous ROCHESTER, whose history I have already given in my former work, and therefore shall only say now that, as Dr. BURNET, who attended him on his death-bed, has declared that he died a sincere penitent, it is a pity he did not die many years before, since nothing else could stop his career, that so the world, which was dishonoured by his conduct, might not have imbibed a contagion from his principles which have disseminated so much profligacy among the pupils of pleasure.

Yours, my dear Sir,

Leicester-Place. very truly,

March 28, 1802. C. DIBDIN.

	Banbury	Burford	Chipping Norton	Deddington	Henley	Oxford	Wheatly	Witney	Woodstock	London
Wed. Bampton to	36	7	18	26	33	10	16	5	13	71
Thurs. Banbury to		23	12	7	46	23	34	24	16	73
Sat. Burford to			11	18	40	18	23	7	17	73
Wed. Chipping Norton to				11	43	19	25	18	11	75
Sat. Deddington to					39	16	22	13	21	69
W. F. & S. Henley to						23	24	33	31	35
W. & S. Oxford to							6	10	8	58
Wheatly to								16	8	48
Thurs. Witney to									8	66
Tues. Woodstock to										62

OXFORDSHIRE.

Table of Distances in OXFORDSHIRE. The city of OXFORD is governed by a Mayor and Aldermen, and the University by a Chancellor and a Vice-Chancellor. WOODSTOCK is also governed by a Mayor and Aldermen. The other towns have their market days placed before them. The members of parliament are two for the county, two for OXFORD, two for the University, two for WOODSTOCK, and one for BANBURY.

LETTER LXXXVII.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.

JOHN SHELDON, Esq.

MY DEAR SIR,

WHETHER this county received its name from the great number of Bucks with which it formerly abounded, or the beech trees which grew there in great plenty, and were called Buccum by the Saxons, I shall take no ground to enquire; for one thing because I am too much on the wing, and for another because the point, though it has been warmly contested, seems to be unworthy any trouble. BUCKINGHAMSHIRE is a pleasant well frequented county, and like BERKSHIRE and other situations within a reasonable distance from the capital, the region of villas and *fermes ornee*, which, especially, in that part of it in the neighbourhood of WINDSOR, are numerous. It is separated from BERKSHIRE on the south by the river Thames; on the west it borders on OXFORDSHIRE; on the north by NORTHAMPTONSHIRE and BEDFORDSHIRE; and HERTFORDSHIRE and part of MIDDLESEX lie on the east. It is in length about forty-five miles, in breadth about eighteen, and has a circumference of about a hundred and thirty-eight. It is divided into eight hundreds, in which are seventeen market-towns. It lies in the province of CANTERBURY and diocese of LINCOLN, and sends fourteen members to parliament. Its rivers are the Thames, which will be described in the next letter, and the Ouse and the Coln, which have been described already.

To go into BUCKINGHAMSHIRE in detail would be extremely tiresome. What could we say of COLNBROOK, to which we are conducted by the Two Magpies? DATCHET and its mead, where FALSTAFF was thrown into the river in the buck basket? ETON with its poets, parsons, lawyers and statesmen in embryo? TAPLOW, the seat of hunting the buck? BEACONSFIELD, memorable for being the residence of a great and honorable orator? HAMPDEN, the seat of his ancestors, whose name I believe is oftener used by his partizans in expectation of popularity than admiration? WYCOMB, distinguished by the hospitality of that nobleman who built the church there? RISBOROUGH decorated by a form on the side of a chalky hill, called WHITELEAF-CROSS, in the nature of ALFRED'S White Horse in BERKSHIRE? STOW and the beautiful and celebrated gardens of the noble family of TEMPLE, with its Palladian Bridge, its Egyptian Pyramid, its Sleeping Parlour, its Witch House, its Temple of Virtue in ruins, its statues of the ancients; of the British Worthies; of Illustrious Friends, beginning with the father of his present Majesty, and finishing with the elegant Lord LITTLETON; the Shell-Bridge, the Chinese House, and all the rest of those objects so full of taste and grandeur which have so long been the pride of the English, and the admiration of foreigners: What shall one say of all these things that is not already known?

Neither is there of AYLESBURY, or even BUCKINGHAM itself much to remark. The assizes are held alternately at those places, and each place sends members to parliament, but they neither of them are even governed by a mayor, and it would be hardly worth while to say of AYLESBURY that its charter was originally held from WILLIAM the Norman, by a condition that they should provide the king with litter or straw for his bed-chamber, and furnish him with three eels in the winter, and two green-geese in the summer, if he should happen to pass by that way. I shall therefore take my leave of this county in my usual manner, which, that every thing may be of a piece will not after all excite much interest.*

* I received the proof half-sheet of this letter from Mr. WOODFALL this evening, April 7, at the moment of my return from BUCKINGHAMSHIRE, a part of which county I have been to visit, and the circumstance I am going to instance will be a strong corroborative voucher of the many assertions I have already advanced, that nothing is more common and usual if people will but look about them, than to meet with a variety of things which by the world are called extraordinary and wonderful. I dined at the Crown at AMERSHAM yesterday, which inn was

As to plants we are again at fault. Wall rue, which is the *ruta muraria*, or white maidenhair, is to be found near BEACONSFIELD. It has however none of the qualities of the real *adiantum*, and is seldom used in medicine. The mountain cow parsnip grows in BUCKINGHAMSHIRE, and is a very uncommon plant, but I know nothing of its virtues in medicine, nor do I believe it has any; but the plant for which this county is rather famous, is the juniper bush, *juniperis vulgaris fruticosa*. It grows in great plenty in the roads near AMERSHAM. All the medical books are full of its virtues, and I have no doubt were it ascertained how it might be best applied, but it would be of universal service. Some are for the distilled oil, others for the root, some draw off a spirit from the berries, others from the seed. It is I dare say a wholesome thing; the fault seems to be that people take too much of it.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE has produced some celebrated characters. OUGHTRED, who after examining the mathematics more profoundly, as it is said, than any other man, died with joy at the news of the Restoration, was born at ETON. Dr. ALDRICH, an eminent prelate, who died Bishop of CARLISLE, and register of the

undergoing almost a rebuilding. The structure was evidently very ancient; and, as this Tour was not yet quite off my mind, I was not inattentive to its interest. "Well," said I to the landlord, "you are a little in the Sampson "style here, you seem to be pulling an old house over your head. Have you found any thing curious about it?" "Curious," said he, "indeed, I have; only step this way." So saying he led me to what is intended for a handsome parlour. "This house," continued he, "has been in the possession of my father and myself for sixty-three "years, and was built a long time before that; how long I don't know; but, in pulling down the old wainscotting "we discovered what you see over the chimney. It is the arms of Queen ELIZABETH, and I intend to put a "frame round it, and let it remain to be seen by all my customers." The stone was I believe nearly four feet square. On it were certainly painted the arms of Queen ELIZABETH, over which appeared very conspicuous the words *God save the Queen*. It appeared to be very ancient. Whether the antiquaries and farthing hunters have yet been about him I know not. He told me one gentleman who had seen it, had undertook by circumstances to prove that Queen ELIZABETH once slept at CHARDLOE, a village at about five miles distance, and I have no doubt but I might have heard much more but that I had come down stairs for the purpose of getting into the carriage, and he was wanted all over the house, which, though but a skeleton was thronged with farmers, it being market day. I advised him upon no account to sell it; told him I had no doubt but it would procure him plenty of customers out of curiosity, and promised as his bill was very reasonable and he himself remarkably civil, that I would write this very note by way of giving him a lift. As to the circumstance itself I think the probability is that the house was originally an inn, and that the sign was the Queen's Arms, and there is nothing unlikely that it might have been placed over the chimney-piece of the best room, as well as on the outside of the house. At any rate, to speak fashionably, it cannot be a hoax; for it clearly makes a part of the building as it was anciently erected. The landlord congratulates himself upon having discovered a treasure, and I sincerely hope his wishes may not be frustrated.

order of the Garter, was a native of BURNHAM. Bishop Cox, eminent in the sixteenth century, was born at WADDON. He was attached to LUTHER, and therefore incurred the displeasure of Queen MARY, but after her death he returned from exile, and was one of those divines who were appointed to revise the liturgy. HADDON, one of the most illustrious promoters of the Reformation, and who therefore succeeded GARDINER in his mastership of TRINITY-HALL, and otherwise honorably distinguished himself, was born in BUCKINGHAMSHIRE; so was MONTAGUE, who lived a life of disputation but generally carried his point; so was BATE, an eminent physician, who understood how to manage the constitution of the kingdom as well as the human constitution, and prescribed pretty well for himself whatever he might do for his patients, for he continued to be physician to CHARLES the First, to OLIVER CROMWELL, and to CHARLES the Second, and so was Bishop ATTERBURY, whose singular history is well known, from his meddling with SACHEVERAL to his being exchange for BOLLNGBROKE. He was certainly a most elegant writer.

Leicester-Place, I am, my dear Sir, truly yours,

April 2, 1802. C. DIBDIN.

	Aylesbury	Beaconsfield	Buckingham	Colnbrook	Marlow	Newport Pagnal	Risborough	Stony Stratford	Wendover	Winslow	Wycomb	London
Tues. Amersham to	14	13	31	13	15	38	15	36	9	24	7	26
Sat. Aylesbury to		25	18	30	33	31	10	22	4	10	15	40
Thurs. Beaconsfield to			47	11	8	40	14	49	22	37	6	24
Sat. Buckingham to				58	43	14	26	6	22	6	31	57
Tues. Colnbrook to					15	51	25	39	25	36	17	17
Sat. Marlow to						44	16	51	24	48	8	31
Sat. Newport Pagnal to							42	8	27	20	36	48
Sat. Risborough to								32	5	20	8	37
Frid. Stony Stratford to									27	12	43	50
Thurs. Wendover to										15	12	36
Tues. Winslow to											33	51
Frid. Wycomb to												28

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.

Table of distances in BUCKINGHAMSHIRE. HIGH WYCOMB is the only town governed by a Mayor and Aldermen. The members are two for the county, and two for each of the following boroughs, BUCKINGHAM, AYLESBURY, WYCOMB, AGMONDESHAM, GREAT MARLOW, and WENDOVER. The market days are marked against the towns.

LETTER LXXXVIII.

MIDDLESEX.

JOHN SHELDON, Esq.

MY DEAR SIR,

MIDDLESEX of itself would be an object of inconsiderable consequence, were it not that it holds the capital of the kingdom, which I should suppose, increased at every point as it is, stands upon nearly a fourth of the whole county. MIDDLESEX measures twenty-four miles in length, eighteen in breadth, and has a circumference of ninety-five. It is bounded on the east by ESSEX, from which it is separated by the river Lea; on the south by SURRY and KENT, from which it is parted by the Thames; on the west by BUCKINGHAMSHIRE, and on the north by HERTFORDSHIRE. It is divided into six hundreds and two liberties, and contains, besides the cities of LONDON and WESTMINSTER, five market towns. It lies in the province of CANTERBURY, and diocese of LONDON, and sends eight members to parliament.

The rivers are the Thames, the Colne, the Lea, and the New River, neither of which, however, has its source in this county, and the three last I have therefore already described; but, as the Thames forms so noble and conspicuous an object near the Metropolis, I thought it material to avail myself in this place of describing its progress. It rises from a small spring generally allowed to be

on the borders of GLOUCESTERSHIRE, and flowing eastward, becomes navigable at LEACHDALE for vessels of fifty tons, and this is at the distance of about a hundred and fifty miles from LONDON. It from thence continues a north-east course till it arrives at OXFORD, where it receives the Charwell, the Windrush, the Evenlode, and the Tame, after which it flows south-east to ABINGTON, and from thence south-east by WALLINGFORD to READING, visiting the towns of HENLEY, MARLOW, MAIDENHEAD, WINDSOR, ETON, STAINES, CHERTSEY, WEYBRIDGE, SHEPPERTON, WALTON, SUNBURY, HAMPTON, THAMES-DITTON, KINGSTON, TWICKENHAM, RICHMOND, SHEEN, ISLEWORTH, KEW. BRENTFORD, MORTLAKE, BARNES, CHISWICK, HAMMERSMITH, PUTNEY, FULHAM, WANDSWORTH, BATTERSEA, CHELSEA, and LAMBETH, from whence both its shores are covered with houses and works of different descriptions in an almost uninterrupted continuation to DEPTFORD, and indeed GREENWICH; which immense space, thus lengthened, with its incredible number of boats and barges for the purpose of conveying passengers and goods, and the forest of ships which wait to carry manufactures to the most distant regions, or else that import the produce of all the nations of the earth, renders this beautiful and majestic river the pride of the metropolis, and the admiration and astonishment of foreigners. From GREENWICH the Thames proceeds to WOOLWICH, ERITH, GRAYS, and GRAVESEND, and then falls into the sea. As to the mineral waters there may be some of them perhaps that may boast medicinal qualities, but they are too near home to be heeded.

The air of MIDDLESEX upon the whole is extremely healthy, though it must be confessed that people seldom go to HAMPSTEAD, HIGHGATE, and other elevated situations to breathe but to gasp the air. The true life for your Londoners is mud in the winter and dust in the summer, and this is a very strong proof that the atmosphere in general must be rather salubrious than hurtful, or else that their lungs must be pretty tough; for, when we consider the prodigious multitude of inhabitants in the capital, now augmented perhaps two thirds in comparison to what it was a hundred and fifty years ago, and certainly one third even within my recollection, it is not at all wonderful that the effluvia from the human bodies, and the many trades attended with offensive smells should materially affect the air. The degree, however, is extremely difficult to ascertain, for all

the observations made from a review of the bills of mortality are fallacious, and one reason is that dissenters of all descriptions are interred in the burying places of the established church, whereas none of them are christened or registered in the churches, and thus it is not astonishing that the deaths published in the bills of mortality should exceed the births.

The cultivation of the kitchen garden in MIDDLESEX is not to be parallelled in this kingdom, or of course in any other, for the prodigious quantities of manure calculated for every species of land, is not any where else to be procured of the same kind, or in the same variety as in LONDON; hence the remark that you may have any thing at any time for money. That there is something too much of this might perhaps fairly be argued; vegetables may as easily be unnaturally fed as animals, and the consequence is vapidity in one and grossness in the other; for my own part, after I had been accustomed on my tour to mutton caught upon the downs and fowls at the barn door, I never failed to nauseate on my return sheep fed upon oil cakes and crammed capons. It is now, however, too late to go into this.

It will be little also expected that I should attempt a description of LONDON, which took folios to explain it when it had not half of its present objects; but as people in that wonderful place do not know their next neighboors, as persons who have been resident in it seven years are obliged to enquire their way about, as lanes, streets, places and squares spring up like mushrooms, and as strangers and not residents go to see the lions and the tombs, so it may not be amiss to mention some particulars of the almost incomprehensible increase of the metropolis, which many persons who now live in the heart of it are perfectly ignorant of.

To go so far back as when CHARING-CROSS was the village of CHARING, and the abbey stood upon an island, would be to involve the subject too deeply, I shall therefore merely, to shew the astonishing rapidity with which the new buildings have grown into their present form, slightly notice that when the STUARTS came to the throne LONDON and WESTMINSTER were at a good mile's distance from

space was filled with noblemen's seats and the spacious gardens belonging to them, some of which were ranged by the side of the Thames. ESSEX-STREET and its vicinity were occupied by a palace built by the Earl of ESSEX. The Duke of NORFOLK had another in the neighbourhood of NORFOLK-STREET. SOMERSET-HOUSE, built by the Duke of SOMERSET, uncle and protector to HENRY the Sixth, came to the crown after that nobleman was beheaded, and has ever since been at the disposal of government.

The SAVOY, built by PETER, Earl of SAVOY and RICHMOND, was intended as a royal palace at the union of the houses of YORK and LANCASTER, in proof of which it is still a dutchy, and no person can be arrested there but by a LANCASTER writ. BEAUFORT BUILDINGS in the same manner was WORCESTER HOUSE; EXETER HOUSE was built on that spot where stands EXETER CHANGE; SALISBURY HOUSE now forms CECIL-STREET; BEDFORD HOUSE, with its large possessions, now makes a number of streets, of which BEDFORD-STREET is the principal; YORK HOUSE, the ancient seat of the archbishops of that name, was purchased by VILLARS, Duke of BUCKINGHAM, which four titles are those of the streets it occupied; NORTHUMBERLAND HOUSE stands in its original place, and in improved grandeur.

Many of the squares were in like manner composed of palaces. St. JAMES'S-SQUARE had at one time no less than ten of these. BLOOMSBURY-SQUARE was begun by the palace of Lord RUSSEL, and SOHO-SQUARE by that of the Duke of MONMOUTH, who were both beheaded; but it would be endless to go over the variety of circumstances that relate to these alterations. That commercial convenience should trench upon rank is a noble consideration; and, large as WESTMINSTER is, PORTMAN-SQUARE, and other superb places full of magnificent structures, give abundant proof that, for the general benefit of the metropolis, the nobility have no objection to go further afield. Nay, the symptoms begin to manifest themselves at the out-skirts of the city; witness the buildings in and about FINSBURY-SQUARE. In short, look at the extent of the capital on the MIDDLESEX side of the water, and the more you gaze the more reflection will yield to astonishment. I remember perfectly well that, in the year 1760, a gate that led to a field shut up RATHBONE-PLACE, and the MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL stood alone, and at a considerable

distance from any house. Now take the circuit from the extremity of PADDINGTON almost to SADLER'S WELLS, shutting up KENTISH TOWN and PANCRAS, and you behold another WESTMINSTER; and, if you want a pleasant ride in a hackney coach, you may drive from HYDE-PARK CORNER, or TYBURN TURNPIKE, almost to LEA BRIDGE, beyond HACKNEY, without going off the stones.

I can allow myself only a very few words more. In 1760, being then just arrived from the country, I was of course full of anxiety to know every particular of the astonishing place I came to visit; and, from the accounts that then fell in my way, I learnt that the extent of LONDON and WESTMINSTER, from east to west, was about six miles, and from north to south, where broadest, about two and a half, and that, were the irregular extremeties compacted together, it would take in a circumference of eighteen miles; but I was also informed that a few years would make a great alteration if buildings should go on in proportion to the spirit then excited, for that in the memory of some persons at that time living, the two cities had been enlarged with more houses than were contained in BRISTOL, EXETER, YORK, and NEWCASTLE, put together. The number of streets at that time were estimated at five thousand, of houses a hundred and fifty thousand, and of inhabitants a million. Were this the truth, we should have nothing to do but to consider LONDON and WESTMINSTER as two thirds at that time of what they are now, and we shall then find that their whole circumference would be twenty-seven miles, the number of streets seven thousand five hundred, of houses two hundred and seventy-five thousand, and of inhabitants a million and a half, that is to say, taking fairly all the places with new names into the account, or, in other words, the whole circuit of the two-penny post on the MIDDLESEX side.

It is impossible, however, to argue in this manner; for, by the returns to the late population act, MIDDLESEX altogether is said to contain no more than eight hundred and seventeen thousand seven hundred and ten, and it is considered as complete, except a few inns of court. It is extremely difficult to reconcile this fact, and yet I cannot see upon what ground to disprove it. Certainly much more has been gained in space than in number of houses, which are now large and roomy, whereas they were formerly small and inconvenient; houses also are

now occupied in most instances each by a family, whereas formerly several families occupied a single house; and we should add to this, that streets and lanes have been dismantled to erect warehouses and other commercial repositories, and yet this is an argument in favour of the encrease of population, because these very improvements have induced an influx of settlers. All we can suppose is, that the former calculations were considerably too high; but even that cannot reconcile so large an allowance; for, if the recent statement be true, we cannot give LONDON and WESTMINSTER, with all their collateral advantages, more than eight hundred thousand inhabitants. Perhaps, with all our faith in this calculation, both sides must be required to concede a little; for the number of houses, as they stood about six years ago, are ascertained to a single house by HORWOOD'S large and ingenious map, and to confine the whole of the inhabitants to eight hundred thousand, we can barely give five inhabitants to each house.*

The remainder of MIDDLESEX I must leave to those who for profit or pleasure line it in all directions; but, as a bit of a posey is a great delicacy to a cockney, I shall not neglect to speak of the plants uncommon or curious, which of course in a region of such high and general cultivation are constantly to be met with.

Great varieties of poppies are found in various parts of MIDDLESEX, and especially near the capital. This gay flower and all its somniferous effects are too well known to need description. Mouse-tail, *myosurus*. This plant is by most of the botanists classed with the ranunculus, and some have attributed to it

* It is curious that the public judgment has been completely overturned by this enquiry into the population of the kingdom. It was always imagined that ENGLAND, SCOTLAND, and WALES, contained altogether from seven to eight millions of inhabitants. Now we find that ENGLAND and WALES, with SCOTLAND out of the question, has nine millions at least, when the probability of the returns, not yet made out, are taken into consideration. In this public estimate also it was considered that the capital was over inhabited by a monstrous proportion, and the general cry was, that the head would become too large for the body. Those who argued in this manner were ignorant perhaps that YORKSHIRE holds more inhabitants than MIDDLESEX; LANCASHIRE two thirds as many as MIDDLESEX; and that ESSEX, GLOUCESTERSHIRE, KENT, NORFOLK, STAFFORDSHIRE, SUFFOLK, SURREY, and WARWICKSHIRE, at least an averaged third each, evidently occasioned by manufacture and commerce.

all the virtues of the plantain. The flowers are remarkably small, and are succeeded by slender spikes of seed which resemble the tail of a mouse. Clivers, also called cleavers and goose-grass, in botany *aparine*, is very plentiful in MIDDLESEX. This plant is something like the madders and crosswort, and the vulgar think it an antiscorbutic. Rupture-wort, *herniaria*. Of this plant there are four species and it has been considered to have wonderful efficacy in curing ruptures, and no doubt under the instructions of eminent practitioners much benefit has been derived from its virtues. It is also considered as very efficacious in such disorders of the eyes as demand relief from an attenuant. Shepherd's pouch, *bursa pastoris*. This odd plant gets so fast to perfection, that by dropping its seeds there are four or five generations of it in a year. It is supposed to be a styptic, but Dr. LEWIS and others deny this. In the Linnean system this is a species of the *thlaspi*. Little field-madder, *sherardia*. This name is also given to the genus of plants called by LINNEUS *galenia*, a name, which though medical by implication, seems to have conferred on it no medical virtues. Shepherd's rod, teazle, or fuller's thistle, *dipsacus*, or *carduum fullonum*. This plant when cultivated is of great use in raising the knap upon woollen cloths, and is produced in the north very plentifully for that purpose.

There are a prodigious number of other plants which come to greater perfection near the capital than any where else, because of the quantity of manure strewed about; but an enumeration of all those would be difficult at all, and here impossible. Mosses, grasses, thistles, various cudweeds, called also goldilocks, burdocks, mallows, plantains, hawkweeds, ferns, and many others might be mentioned; but it would be going into a chain which it were better to let alone than to exhibit a part of its links; I shall therefore speak of a few out of the vast number of great men born in MIDDLESEX, and take my leave of you and my readers.

SOUTH, a learned and witty divine, was born at HACKNEY. There are these words of him in the Tatler. "This learned gentleman had a talent of making "all his faculties bear to the great end of his hallowed profession. His charming "discourses have in them whatever wit and wisdom can put together. Happy

" genius! he was the better man for being a wit, and the best way to praise him " is to quote him." The celebrated Dr. MEAD, whose medical studies were equally calculated to cure the sick and caution those in health, and who was as forward to relieve the necessitous with his purse as his prescriptions, was a native of STEPNEY. The great characters born in the metropolis have long ago furnished matter enough to make many volumes, therefore, I must necessarily be concise. Among them we find,

Sir THOMAS MORE, Lord High Chancellor of ENGLAND, the character of whose mind was equal dignity and chearfulness, and who suffered death for his virtues. The great CAMDEN. SPENSER, who, if CHAUCER was the Father of the English Poets, greatly improved the paternal inheritance. INIGO JONES, whose fame as an architect is so nobly supported by the public buildings he erected. BEN JONSON, who also built some monuments to celebrate his own fame. MILTON, a most exalted genius and exquisite poet, of whose wonderful merit, indeed, it is almost an insult to attempt a description, but who nevertheless, a thing not uncommon, lived in a state below mediocrity, and died blind and unfriended, but whose fame will never be forgotten. COWLEY, the mathematical poet, who by substituting art for nature contrived to establish for himself a speculative reputation, and what perhaps answered his wishes full as well, a comfortable fortune, and who has been nearly forgotten some time. PRIOR, whose talents though neat and even brilliant, were not of sufficient consequence to create much envy, and who therefore basked more in the sunshine of fortune than either of the foregoing. ROWE, who wrote well and from sentiment, and who seems to have found in his mind something better than worldly fortune. POPE, who managed the world as he managed his pen, ably yet speciously, and who, if the idea may be permitted, made for himself a posthumous fame in his life time. HOGARTH, the father of caricature, but whose children through all their generations have been all illegitimate. These are a few of the prominent characters among a prodigious number of celebrated men who were born in LONDON.

Here then I rest from my labour, in the perusal of which my friends and the public are intreated to accept in warmth what perhaps may be wanted in accuracy.

Epistolary writing may be allowed to wander, and observation will naturally assume all complexions. Not that I attempt to shelter myself from fair reproof, for if it be merited, I seek and desire it, nor indeed do I shrink from any examination instituted by candour and gone into with good humour. I have used my best endeavours to amuse and inform the public, my labours have procured me the good opinion of my friends; and, if I were to harbour the most distant idea of fear or distrust, I should merit to lose the indulgence of one and the kindness of the other.

I am, my dear Sir,

Leicester-Place. most thankfully yours,

April 10, 1802. C. DIBDIN.

MIDDLESEX.

Table of Distances in Middlesex.

	Acton to	Brentford to	Edgeware to	Enfield to	Hampton to	Harrow to	Hounslow to	Isleworth to	Staines to	Stanmore to	Twickenham to	Uxbridge to
London	5	7	8	9	14	10	10	10	17	10	11	15
Uxbridge	10	11	16	22	18	7	7	14	7	10	14	
Twickenham	8	4	10	19	3	4	4	1	8	15		
Stanmore	8	11	2	10	16	3	14	14	21			
Staines	14	15	16	25	9	21	7	9				
Isleworth	7	4	9	18	4	11	5					
Hounslow	6	3	12	18	7	14						
Harrow	4	7	6	14	14							
Hampton	8	7	14	22								
Enfield	12	15	8									
Edgeware	6	9										
Brentford	3											

THE END.